



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 29, 2025

***Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of  
LD 947, An Act to Clarify Overnight Docking at  
Mainland Ports for Certain Island Ferry Vessels  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation***

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Transportation Committee, for the record, my name is Holly Eaton, and I represent House District 15, which includes the island communities of Deer Isle, Stonington, Isle au Haut, Frenchboro, Swan's Island, Vinalhaven, Brooklin, Tremont, and Southwest Harbor. I am pleased to testify in support of LD 947.

Reliable and responsive ferry service is absolutely essential for the island communities I represent. It is the foundation that supports access to healthcare, education, employment, emergency services, and daily life.

LD 947 provides important clarification around overnight docking for certain ferry vessels, ensuring that vessels can be positioned **on the islands** when necessary to better serve island residents. This small but critical step has real impacts on reliability, efficiency, and emergency preparedness.

When ferries are able to remain overnight on the islands, they can depart earlier in the morning, respond more flexibly to weather and tidal conditions, and be available immediately in the case of urgent needs. For families traveling for medical care or students commuting to the mainland for school, having the ferry positioned on the island can make a major difference.

Moreover, in emergencies — whether medical, weather-related, or otherwise — having vessels staged directly on the islands improves evacuation readiness and strengthens safety for all residents.

Supporting LD 947 is about more than operational logistics. It is about ensuring that Maine's island communities, including Swans Island, Frenchboro, and Vinalhaven, are served with the reliability, care, and responsiveness they deserve.

I respectfully urge the committee to support LD 947. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.

District 15: Brooklin, Deer Isle, Eagle Island Township, Frenchboro, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swan's Island, Tremont, Isle au Haut, Vinalhaven