



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Lydia Crafts presenting

**LD 1186, Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the
Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation**

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Lydia Crafts, and I represent House District 46, which includes Bristol, Damariscotta, Monhegan Plantation, Newcastle and Nobleboro. Today, I am pleased to present **LD 1186, Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island.**

I have the distinct honor of representing Monhegan Plantation, a rocky island 10 miles off the coast with a year-round population of 64, as of the 2020 census. Seasonal boats carry hundreds of summer visitors to the island daily from Boothbay, New Harbor and Port Clyde. In the winter, islanders find themselves limited to boat runs two or three days per week based on the postal contracts. Bad weather can mean trips to shore for medical appointments, which can keep residents on the mainland for five days at a time. This carries a high cost and interferes significantly with work and family responsibilities.

As Monhegan looks ahead at infrastructure upgrades and wharf improvements, the timing seems appropriate to consider how the Maine State Ferry Service (MSFS) might consider possible service to the island. This will, understandably, be individualized to the specific needs of the island and the available services of the MSFS. The goal of this resolve is to assess the economic and social benefits as well as the challenges of implementing ferry service. Additionally it will consider the infrastructure resources and needs of the island and mainland, and the overall financial and operational feasibility of such a service.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of directing the DOT to study this. After additional communication with current transportation providers, I suggest we add a representative to the proposed study group. I would be happy to work with Ms. Furman to provide an amendment for the work session.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions.