



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Holly Eaton in support of
LD 1231: An Act to Allow Maine State Ferry Service Vessels to
Remain Overnight at Island Ports
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.

Although I am not a sponsor or co-sponsor of LD 1231, I rise today in strong support of the bill.

Reliable ferry service is critical to the daily life and long-term sustainability of Maine's island communities. LD 1231 recognizes a simple but powerful truth: that positioning ferry vessels overnight at island ports improves reliability, flexibility, and emergency responsiveness.

When ferries are staged directly on the islands, they can depart earlier, better respond to weather conditions, and be available for urgent travel or medical needs without the delays that occur when vessels must transit from the mainland first.

For families traveling for medical care, students commuting for education, and island residents planning their daily lives, early and dependable ferry departures are essential. In an emergency, quick ferry availability can make all the difference.

Supporting LD 1231 is an investment in the health, resilience, and viability of island communities like Swans Island, Frenchboro, and Vinalhaven. I urge the committee to support LD 1231 and stand with Maine's islands. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I would be 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