



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Michael Ray

40 Quarry Road

Lincolntonville, ME 04849

Phone: (207) 930-0371

michael.ray@legislature.maine.gov

Good afternoon Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished fellow members of the Transportation Committee. I am Representative Michael Ray, and I represent the towns of Appleton, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolntonville, Montville, Morrill and Searsmont in House District 40. I'm here to speak in strong support of LD 1261: An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes.

I live in Lincolntonville, and have spent a fair amount of time at the ferry terminal there - either to get across to Islesboro, or guiding groups of kayakers in that immediate vicinity. I'm also on the Selectboard in town, and while I'm not now representing or speaking for the Board, I've had occasion to observe closely the damage storms can do to the area. The Town came real close to losing its pier last January and March - and that sits nestled in the lee of the ferry terminal.

When a decent blow comes out of the southeast - and that is pretty much the prevailing wind direction - the long fetch of Penobscot Bay, and the very open exposure there combine to make Lincolntonville a poor choice to dock a large vessel overnight. Tied up at night, when not in gear and "ramming" the pilings, wave action will result in serious damage to the boat if it - and it will - come into contact with the dock. I've also seen the 60% engineering plans for the proposed modifications to the ferry slip that include a wave break to the southeast, and while I commend the planners for taking weather into account, conversations with local fisherman and our Town's Harbor Committee lead me to think a simple wave break isn't sufficient. (Again, I'm not speaking on behalf of the Town or any of its committees.)

It's been suggested that having the islands share a large ambulance boat would solve the EMS problem of not having a ferry docked overnight on Islesboro. I'd suggest that with the Lincolntonville ferry slip

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already filled, the Town pier and floats wouldn't be suitable for safe docking and transfers. Especially at low tides. That boat would have to go to either Belfast up the Bay or south to Rockland.. Either way, that would be a long trip with a patient needing urgent care. And that longer trip doesn't include the time it would take a shared boat to get to Islesboro.

Thank you for your time, and I will be happy to try and answer any questions.