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Good morning, Senator Deschambault, Representative Warren and respected members of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee. My name is Edward Matlack and I am here today to testify in support of LD 514, **An Act To Establish and Promote a System of Safe Disposal of Expired Marine Flares**. I work as a ship master and operate a small motor vessel on my time off. In my forty years of going to sea, dealing with expired pyrotechnics has continued to be a problem. When I started owning boats it became a bigger problem.

Pyrotechnics, or marine flares, have a three-year lifetime. After the expiration date printed on the piece itself, it is no longer acceptable to the U.S. Coast Guard and is defined as unsafe to use. The question is how to dispose of them safely.

Having a dedicated incinerator would be a great boon to this state's working fishing folk, commercial vessel operators and pleasure boaters. Without a dedicated incinerator, pyrotechnics pile up in our barns, shops and worst, basements, becoming more unstable as time goes by.

Every documented vessel carries at least three parachute flares, six handheld flares and three smoke flares. The state has about 7,370 documented vessels including about 3,440 working vessels. This works out to about 29,480 out-of-date pyrotechnics each year to be stored and eventually destroyed. This estimate does not include boats stored and cared for in Maine but which are owned and registered by people in other states.

I strongly support a new dedicated incinerator so that we can safely dispose of hazardous, outdated marine flares.

Thank you for your interest and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

#### References

<https://www.boatinfoworld.com/boat/registrations/maine-boat-owners-cities.asp> number of boats in maine