

To: Senator Joseph Rafferty, co-chair
Representative Michael Brennan, co-chair,
Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Cross Building, Room 208
Augusta, Maine 04330
EDU@legislature.main.gov

DATE: April 22, 2021

RE: LD1389: An Act To Improve Maritime Education in Maine "Ought to Pass"

I am immediate past Commodore of the Camden Yacht Club. CYC provides programs and facilities to promote boating and enjoyment of the waters and islands of Penobscot Bay and CYC is sole member and major donor to the 501 (c) (3) Camden Area Youth Seamanship Program open to all Camden area youth.

My other community engagement includes active participation in a Camden Rotary Economic and Workforce Development initiative, the Rockport Economic Development Committee and chairing the Rockport Comprehensive Plan Committee.

These CYC and community initiatives all include a focus on skilling, reskilling and upskilling Midcoast Maine citizens for marine related activities. The Maine Ocean School is critical to this effort.

LD1389 benefits Maine Ocean School by ending the sunset clause, so that the School can continue *to grow and show its success. Its unique combination of practical training towards certification for able seaman opportunities upon graduation, and college preparatory academics is a valuable addition to Maine's public education landscape.*

I urge the Committee to vote "ought to pass" on this bill.

Very truly yours,



Richard M. Anderson
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