

- Type of hearing: Public Hearing
- Committee: Education and Cultural affairs
- Date: April 22nd
- Bill: LD 1389

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

To: Senator Joseph Rafferty, co-chair ,  
Representative Michael Brennan, co-chair,  
Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

I have admired the maritime life and orientation of Maine since the mid-sixties and have been a resident since 2000. My business works within the modern energy production and services industry, including innovative technologies.

My neighbors include fisherfolk, retired naval engineers and a sea food retail and shipping operation. My community affiliations reinforce my role as a Board Member for the Maine Ocean School Foundation.

I invested in rehabilitating a hydroelectric plant in Dover-Foxcroft in the mid-eighties. With the prospective arrival of offshore wind production in Maine, I know that Maine needs an educated workforce grown from within. Now I am investing in the future of Maine's maritime education and workforce through support for Maine Ocean School.

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,



Ruben S. Brown, M.A.L.D.  
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