

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 04333
EDU@legislature.maine.gov

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

Esteemed Legislators:

In 2020 it was my pleasure to offer support for the Maine Ocean School and for LD 2020.

Dr. Kylie Bragdon, Executive Director continues to report that the first three years have been eventful and promising. The mission of the School, its curriculum and its students are very encouraging to me for the future of education in Maine. I have chaired the Board of Visitors of the University of Maine and greatly support the advancement of education, including ocean matters. I have served as Secretary of the Ocean Energy Institute of Maine. My long involvement with Maine Community Foundation underscores my appreciation for the arrival of this entity among our educational resources to assist communities preparing our young people for fulfilling lives as our oceans are changing around us.

LD1389 benefits the School by ending the sunset clause, so that the School can continue to show its success.

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

Very truly yours,

H. Allen Fernald