



April 22, 2021

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Maine State Legislature

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Good afternoon Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Distinguished Members of the Committee.

My name is Mike Flannigan, I am a retired State of Maine Master Mariner with 42 years going to sea.

When I first became involved with the Maine Ocean School my vision was to assist in preparing high school students for a career at sea. We were blessed to have another group come aboard to extol the virtues of Marine Science. Never in my imagination could I have predicted where the school would be today.

It is obvious from visits to the school that these students are engaged and motivated to get involved with some aspect of the sea. The teachers are

Innovative and enthused about their subjects. Every student

has picked up on that enthusiasm. Regardless of a student's academic ability prior to enrolling they begin to improve in the environment of the Maine Ocean School.

The proof is in the pudding. A student that graduated in 2020 has above a 3.9 average at Maine Maritime academy. 3 students travel from Waldoboro to Searsport Daily, a distance of 40 miles. These commuting students are in their 3rd year of making that daily commute.

In my 42 years of going to sea I always had a State of Maine contingent. The work ethic and common sense of those mariners made for a better ship. When visiting the Maine Ocean School I get that feeling that these young men and women would serve any ship they might serve on well.

Please pass LD 1389.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain Michael S Flanagan

Retired Master, Military Sealift Command



A public magnet high school for marine science, technology, transportation, and engineering

Retired Captain USNR

Trustee Maine Ocean School