

April 17, 2021

Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
Cross Building, Room 208  
Augusta, Maine [EDU@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:EDU@legislature.maine.gov)

**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 was born in Maine and other than my doctorate studies I have lived and worked in Maine for the past 64 years. I currently live in Rockport Maine.

Beginning with the current pandemic I became involved with, and developed the Camden Rotary Club's Economic and workforce Development Educational Series of presentations. Focusing on midcoast Maine. We are addressing the concerns of upskilling and reskilling education, the expansion of quality high speed internet, workforce housing shortage solutions, and child care expansion. As rotarians we are working to address these issues through a cross-sector public, private and non-profit collaboration. We hope to mobilize leaders to work together in new ways: testing, learning from and scaling new ideas.

We know that Maine needs an educated workforce grown from within. The Maine Ocean School can help do that if it has long-term future.

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,

Jonathan M. Goss

*Jonathan M Goss*  
*Camden Rotary, EWDC Chair*  
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*The Rotarian motto is "Service above Self." Among many other endeavors, Camden Rotary Club is serving Knox County and its surroundings by raising awareness of local economic challenges and generating activity to enhance our region's economy and workforce. We believe that progress will come through cross-sector public, private and non-profit collaboration. We hope to mobilize leaders to work together in new ways: testing, learning from and scaling new ideas as they go. This series of monthly presentations aims to inform and energize our economic and workforce development effort.*