

April 2021

To: The Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

RE: LD1389: An Act to Improve Maritime Education in Maine

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Stacey Keefer, Director for the Maine Marine Trades Association. Our association represents over 120 Maine businesses in the marine industry comprised of boatyards, boat builders, marinas, boat dealers, marine retailers, and more.

I am writing on behalf of our members in support of LD1389. Adequate workforce has been a leading challenge for our industry for well over a decade. We are extremely fortunate and optimistic to have the Maine Ocean School as an educational resource and workforce development partner in our state.

The Maine Marine Trades Association would like to encourage the Committee to vote to pass LD 1389 in order for this valuable public school to get the funding structure they need for continued and growing success.

Respectfully,
Stacey Keefer
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director