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

- VIA EMAIL -

Senator Joseph Rafferty Representative Michael Brennan Co-Chairs Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs 100 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0100

SUBJECT: Support of LD1389: An Act to Improve Maritime Education in Maine

Dear Senator Rafferty and Representative Brennan,

Thank you for taking up LD1389: An Act to Improve Maritime Education in Maine. I am writing to express my support of this bill.

Having moved to Maine full time in 2018 and started a national business here, I have developed an appreciation for the community into which I moved. Our maritime culture is a vital part of our economy and the way we live.

To build upon this maritime legacy, Maine needs an educated workforce – and the Maine Ocean School can be a driver of that workforce. LD1389 benefits the 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 career opportunities on the sea upon graduation and college preparatory academics is a valuable addition to Maine's public education landscape.

Please support this bill – to support a very important part of Maine life.

Warmly and with gratitude, Diane Lebson PO Box 128 36 Meadow Drive Camden, ME 04843