

Type of hearing: Public Hearing

Committee: Education and Cultural affairs

Date: April 22nd

Bill: LD 1389-

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 have been an advocate for the Maine Ocean School since its planning days and have served on the Maine Ocean School Foundation for many years. I believe that a state with such a rich and historically active maritime past and a continuation of that maritime economy to the present, deserves a Magnet school to serve its young people who may have an interest in joining the maritime economy in some capacity. We envision this school to have the same recognition and success as our other statewide Magnet school, the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. To do this, the Maine Ocean School needs a reliable source of funding and support from the Maine Legislature and educational community. With the Maine Ocean School’s present leadership and local support, this can become a nationally recognized leader in maritime service preparation of its students ensuring their success in our dynamic maritime economy. The number of possible careers in, on, under and near our coast are available and the resources in the field at this time are few. It is time to properly fund and support this wonderful new school, its students and its future for Maine.

I urge you to support LD 1389 which ends the sunset clause on the Maine Ocean School allowing it to grow and thrive and show success in an underserved area, the maritime economy of Maine. Its unique combination of practical training toward certification as “able seaman”, work on aquaculture, lobstering and other inshore related careers and academic preparation for college show its versatility and flexibility as a new educational leadership opportunity.

I urge the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to vote OUGHT TO PASS LD 1389.

Sincerely, Honorable Veronica G. Magnan, Ed D. (House 124th Legislature)

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