

January 19, 2022

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,

I have been involved in the Maine marine industry for the last 24 years, the most recent 13 years with Hodgdon Yachts serving as General Manager and CFO. I am also a member of the board of the Maine Marine Trades Association.

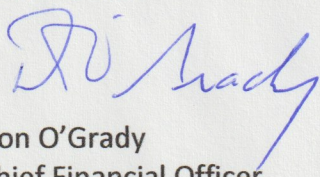
The Maine marine industry offers many career opportunities that can be both fulfilling and economically rewarding to a wide range of individuals. Getting the younger generation of Maine involved has been and continues to be a challenge.

The opportunities that the *Maine Ocean School* provides to its students is a great model allowing them to explore the possibilities of a life and career on the Maine waterfront. This is an educational model we can't afford to lose so we should be doing all we can to support it.

I am writing to ask you to please remove (or at least extend) the sunset clause, allowing the school time to procure a more sustainable, long-term governance. I encourage this Committee to collaborate with Board of Trustees to honor the original founding legislation and offer fair time (in the midst of pandemic challenges) to find a mutually agreeable new model to fulfill the mission of the school.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,



Don O'Grady
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The Hodgdon Group
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