

April 19, 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

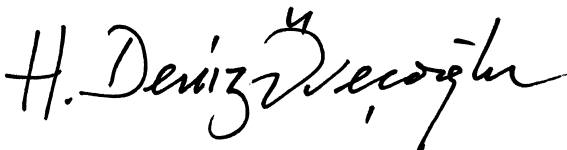
I was trained as a Naval Engineer in Turkey and sailed on Navy Destroyers and Merchant Marine ships as Engineering Officer and Chief Engineer for 17 years. Since immigrating to the United States, I have worked with various shipyards and marine and industrial engine repair firms as Project Manager and Ship Superintendent. Then I joined the U.S. Navy's Military Sea Lift Command (MSC) and I worked for 14 years as Principal Port Engineer for various classes of assigned ships such as hospital ships, fleet oilers, supply ships and oceangoing tugboats and salvage ships. I later transferred to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) and worked on RRF (Ready Reserve Fleet) ships as a Marine Surveyor for 7.5 years. I retired to Midcoast Maine in 2018 to be near the water and a maritime environment.

We know that Maine needs an educated and highly skilled workforce grown from within. The Maine Ocean School can help do that if it has a 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,



H. Deniz Ovecoglu,  
Retired Marine Chief Engineer  
Rockport, ME 04856