

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

As a teenager in New York City, I attended a Vocational High School. It was on a WWII era cargo ship, a Liberty Ship , the SS. John W. Brown.

There we learned the nuts and bolts of basic seamanship and engine room skills. It was great!

Two years of active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard in N.Y. Harbor. Two and half years as an able-bodied seaman on an ocean going tugboat.

Forty-three years with the Sandy Hook Pilots, 35 years as a pilot in New York harbor. A clean job and a life on the water.

I chose to retire to Mid Coast Maine to be near the water and a nautical environment.

Our country. Needs a strong Merchant Marine and training young Mainers for the future is part of that process.

The Maine Ocean School is a wonderful place to start.

I am glad I had such an opportunity I started my career and lov of the sea.

LD 1389 will help to ensure that this opportunity is available to the Maine mariner of tomorrow. We need them now.

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

Sincerely

F. Eugene Riel