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Joint Legislative Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Room 208
Augusta, Maine
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

We are veteran sailors in Maine and come from sailing families. We are both supporters of the Maine Ocean School and participate in it support and operation. We want you to help keep Maine the maritime state it's always been by supporting this bill for us and everyone in Maine. The children in Maine deserve this school for their education.

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


William Shideleff,
Lyn J. Bailey