

130th Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 12

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Testimony Presenting

LD 809

"An Act To Prohibit the Purging of Volatile Organic Compound Gases from Oil Tankers in the Waters of Maine"

Good morning Sen. Brenner, Rep. Tucker, and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl's Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

I come before you today to present LD 809, An Act To Prohibit the Purging of Volatile Organic Compound Gases from Oil Tankers in the Waters of Maine

It came to my attention that many of the large ships that deliver oil, fuel and other chemicals have a need to vent their holds of the gases that are given off by their cargoes. These are not harmless gases and if given off in the proximity of humans or animals can cause respiratory and other issues.

A Merchant Mariner in my district pointed out that other states had prohibited this practice in the same way that dumping untreated seawater ballast was previously prohibited. That is what this bill attempts to do. These transport ships spend little time in port so the venting can be done offshore where it should be harmless to life, if not the environment.

I believe that once the ship's captains are made aware of this restriction in Maine law, they will cease to do it if it was previously the practice. For that reason, I do not seek new penalties for non-compliance in this addition to the current statute.

Thank you for your consideration, I am glad to answer questions if I can.