

April 12, 2021

RE: LD 1161 – *An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone*

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Stacey Keefer, I am speaking today in my capacity as Director for the Maine Marine Trades Association. Our association has approximately 120 members and our industry collectively contributes approximately 2.9 billion dollars annually to the Maine economy.

Modern marinas are much more than a place to tie up and step off or aboard a boat. Boaters often expect and seek out amenities for their vessels and crew. Many marinas also provide repair services, boat storage, fuel docks, waste pumpout services, trash and recycling collection, showers, restrooms, laundry, Wi-Fi, restaurants, shoreside lodging, and more. Marinas in some states often have swimming pools too. Some of the marinas in Maine that have restaurants onsite include DiMillo's in Portland, Dolphin Marina & Restaurant in Harpswell, Dysart's Great Harbor Marina in Southwest Harbor, Lyman-Morse at Wayfarer Marine in Camden, and Paul's Marina/Judy's General Store in Brunswick where you can get Judy's famous chicken salad sandwiches and Gifford's ice cream. Many boats do not have a galley where they can prepare meals. Those boaters would be especially drawn to marinas with restaurants.

We understand that most restaurants are not waterfront-dependent businesses, however some are a critical part of the overall marina enterprise and experience for boaters. One could say the same about a ship's store portion of a marina that sells retail marine items for boaters -- perhaps a few convenience groceries, some local crafts, and bags of ice. Retail businesses are not generally water-dependent except if they are part of a marina.

The Maine Marine Trades Association is in favor of LD 1161 which would add marina-based restaurants to the list of water dependent uses in the shoreland zone. As the Maine Climate Council has reported, our businesses need to prepare for sea level changes and greater storm resiliency. Permitting for future infrastructure improvements should include the existing restaurants that are part of a marina so these businesses can continue to serve an important role for both resident and tourist boaters.

Respectfully,
Stacey Keefer
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director