

April 9, 2021

To: Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources

Re: LD1161, An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone

Good morning. I would like to add my support to the measure before you, which would add marina-based restaurants to the list of functionally water-dependent uses described in state law. This is an important change because it recognizes that preserving Maine's working waterfront requires a comprehensive approach, one that supports the many different and essential aspects of a modern boatyard and marina.

Lyman-Morse currently employs nearly 150 people across three locations in Camden and Thomaston. Our employees use state-of-the-art facilities and training to service the finest yachts on the planet, and discerning owners and crews now come to Maine every year specifically to get their projects completed at Lyman-Morse. However, they also come to our marina and boatyards for an even more basic reason: They have fun while they're docked with us. Our location in Camden, for instance, allows crews and owners to enjoy themselves, including with a delicious meal at a dockside restaurant, while the boatyard team takes care of the necessary work. For our business, offering a great visitor experience for our guests usually leads directly to increased work for our service team.

Maine is not alone in recognizing the benefit of allowing mixed-use developments that include restaurants at the harbor's edge. Boatyards in Newport, RI, and elsewhere have flourished by appealing to all aspects of a yacht crew's needs, not just the marine service ones.

The measure you are considering will help sustain the businesses and communities along Maine's coast and inland waterways by recognizing that the modern working waterfront does not only include rigging cranes, Travelifts, and antifouling paint – but also grilled halibut, fried clams, and a pint of Shipyard beer.

Thank you for your consideration, and hopefully your support, of LD1161.

Respectfully,

Drew Lyman

President, Lyman-Morse