

Scott McCatherin
Yarmouth Boat Yard
LD 1296

May 2, 2025

To: The Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Re: LD 1296 – An Act to Amend the Law Governing Watercraft Franchisor Warranty Reimbursements.

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

My name is Scott McCatherin. I am currently employed by Yarmouth Boat Yard and am also the current President of the Board of Directors of Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA). My role at Yarmouth Boat Yard is to perform much of the warranty work for our dealerships which currently carry no less than 10 brands of new boats and outboard engines.

As you can imagine, performing warranty work for so many brands requires a significant capital outlay with the expectation of prompt reimbursement. While some brands are very reliable in reimbursing within a reasonable amount of time, others prove to be very difficult in support and reimbursement. Some brands have a fixed rate in labor and materials for a specific task. Unfortunately, these rates must be derived from factory conditions and don't take the real world into account for unforeseen issues and mileage.

For some of our brands, my territory stretches from Northern Massachusetts to the Canadian border. Since it would be financially and logistically prohibitive to bring all our boats back to Yarmouth for repair, I spend a significant amount of time traveling to customers' locations from Newburyport, MA. to Mount Desert Island. Obviously multiple trips would account for hundreds of miles of traveling with only speculation that we will be reimbursed for all or even some of the mileage.

Our dealership prides itself on timely and professional customer sales and service. Yarmouth Boatyard invests a significant amount of time and money in training our technicians in all aspects of professional development and brand knowledge. We would respectfully request that LD 1296 be amended so that our brands have the accountability that more closely aligns with our core values.

Respectfully,

Scott A. McCatherin
Yarmouth Boat Yard
Main Marine Trades Association

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