

May 8, 2025

To: The Committee on Housing and Economic Development

RE: LD 1845 – An Act to Establish the Working Waterfront Advisory Council

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

My name is Stacey Keefer; I serve as the Director for the Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA). MMTA represents over 120 Maine businesses and an industry comprised of boatyards, boat builders, marinas, boat dealers, marine retailers, and more. The marine trades in Maine encompass both recreational and commercial vessels. Our industry proudly operates among Maine's working waterfronts, and we are active participants in the Maine Working Waterfront Coalition.

Working waterfronts are increasingly vulnerable to human, financial, and environmental pressures. The Working Waterfront Coalition engages in conversations regarding policy, funding, and preservation strategies for our coastal-dependent industries. However, MMTA believes that a state-level Working Waterfront Advisory Council is prudent to help make recommendations to the Legislature with the assistance of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. In our nearly 60-years, MMTA has a long history of working with agencies and state offices to help Maine businesses. Legislative members and committee assignments change each session. We appreciate that this Advisory Council could help provide the Legislature with consistent and meaningful guidance from session to session.

MMTA would like to thank Representative Reilly and the bipartisan group of co-sponsors for LD 1845 and urge the Committee to vote in favor of this proposal.

Respectfully,



Stacey Keefer
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director

