



# TOWN OF RICHMOND

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March 19, 2025

Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Committee

RE: In Support of LD 976 to Restore Ferry Service to Swan Island

Dear Legislative Committee:

I am writing on behalf of our local Selectboard in support of this bill and to express the concerns surrounding the discontinuation of the ferry service to Swan Island. This historic island has long been a significant landmark in our community, serving as a window into our past and a source of pride for residents and visitors alike. The Town of Richmond and the local IF&W have worked together through the years, bringing visitors and opportunities to help preserve the historic properties on the island and we would like to continue to work together to see this island service restored.

The ferry service to the island has played a crucial role in providing educational opportunities which allowed individuals to experience and appreciate the unique historical sites, local camping and develop an appreciation for IF&W efforts on preserving the island and local wildlife while educating Maine residents.

Our local students as well as surrounding schools have been missing out on local educational opportunities and Maine history right in their backyard. The island has promoted tourism and economic development by attracting visitors to explore this unique gem a mere 300 feet from the shores of Richmond.

Without proper access, the island's treasures are at risk of being overlooked and neglected, posing a threat to the preservation of our heritage for future generations.

I implore you to consider the impacts on our community, Maine residents, and visitors. By reinstating this service, we can revive interest in the island's heritage, attract visitors, create cultural opportunities for enrichment education, and enjoy its beauty, after all isn't this the way life should be!

Regards,

Laurisa Loon  
Town Manager