

May 2021

To: The Committee on Marine Resources

RE: LD 1211– A Resolve To Create The Study Group to Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine’s Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Stacey Keefer, I am presenting this testimony in my capacity 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 other service providers for commercial and recreational boats. Our industry has an approximate \$2.9 billion annual economic impact for the state.

MMTA is submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 1211. Our industry is well aware of coastal changes going on in Maine –both natural and human. We have current and pending issues of humans affecting nature, nature affecting humans, nature affecting nature, plus the stresses of human activity affecting other humans. Coastal and submerged lands create complexities where private and public priorities can vary greatly. These priorities can vary regionally as well.

MMTA encourages the Marine Resources Committee to consider if there is appropriate and diverse enough representation proposed in the resolve. MMTA would be willing to serve if the study group is formed. We represent an overlap industry that supports both commercial and recreational coastal boaters. Many of our members own commercial waterfront property and hold submerged land leases. Thoughtful discussions and working to achieve better balance should involve many stakeholders, therefore we also caution the timing of the report. It may seem desirable to get a report submitted before the second session of the 130th Legislature but having served on the Coastal and Marine Working Group for the Maine Climate Council, the group may need more time to put together such an ambitious report if the Committee deems such a report necessary.

Respectfully,
Stacey Keefer
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director