

Kim Gillies  
Boothbay Harbor  
LD 1177

Dear Transportation Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to LD No. 1177 An Act to Assess a Slip Fee on Megayachts Registered in Overseas Tax Havens. I urge you to reconsider this bill. This kind of fee can have devastating ripple effects on Maine's marine tourism. These yachts will most certainly choose not come to Maine and the other vessels they travel with that may be smaller in size (those under 100') will follow.

These yachts come into our ports and generate good revenue for our towns. They eat in our restaurants, purchase art in our galleries, take home unique gifts from our shops. They tell their friends and colleagues about our beautiful coastal communities which inspires even more yachts to visit. The boating community is small and reputation means everything. Currently Maine has the distinction of being a welcoming and beautiful place to visit. This tax will be perceived as an insult and a money grab. These boaters will be inclined to take their business elsewhere and skip Maine all together. Word will spread and we will be judged as not welcoming to this community.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and it's effects on our coastal communities.

Respectfully,

Kim Gillies  
Boothbay Harbor, Maine