



Testimony of Island Institute in Support of LD 447

April 29, 2025

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Nick Battista, and I am testifying on behalf of Island Institute in support LD 447.

Island Institute is a 42-year-old nonprofit organization based in Rockland, Maine. We boldly navigate climate and economic change with island and coastal communities to expand opportunities and deliver solutions. Much of our work takes place in the communities that are highly dependent on fishing, and the bulk of these communities are east of Damariscotta. The economy of these communities is closely tied to fishing and aquaculture, and these industries rely heavily on working waterfront infrastructure.

LD 234 removes an arbitrary statutory cap on the number of trips that the Maine State Ferry Service can provide to Matinicus each year and allows for these conversations to happen between the parties best suited to have them – the community and the Maine State Ferry Service. I would urge you to listen to the community members who are providing testimony about why this change is important – it is tough to get a truck out to Matinicus.

It is also important to note that this legislation clearly does not require the ferry service to provide additional service to Matinicus or otherwise adjust operations in any manner.

Because Maine State Ferry Service does not break down expenses by route but rather operates the service as a whole entity, there should not be any concerns about added fiscal impact from this legislation. I urge you to support LD 447.