



10 February 2025

NORTH HAVEN

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Maine DOT and Commissioner Bruce van Note:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes in overnight ferry berthing. I firmly support maintaining the current arrangement, with the ferry berthing overnight on North Haven.

Having moved here from Washington, DC, in 2021, I initially found the ferry system complex. However, after nearly four years, I have come to deeply appreciate its essential role in our community and school.

With over 25 years in education, I understand the constraints of tight budgets. Public schools operate within financial limitations far more often than surpluses. Scarcity fosters creativity, but it also forces us to prioritize. As I have often heard, a budget is a statement of values as much as a list of figures.

I recognize that Maine DOT has likely considered many perspectives on this proposal. However, North Haven—and other island communities—have built their lives around the ferry schedule. Our school calendar and student opportunities, including access to the Midcoast School of Technology, depend on the ferry operating as it does now.

At this stage, I ask, on behalf of our students and the year-round community, that we not further burden an already stretched population. North Haven's year-round residents work hard to preserve a unique culture and sustain the seasonal economy. My fear is that this proposal will only add to their challenges. Is the revenue saved on crew accommodations truly worth the cost to the community?

I urge you to delay these changes and instead collaborate with us to develop a long-term plan, including training the next generation of ferry employees.

Respectfully,

Shaun Johnson, PhD

Principal, North Haven Community School

ADDRESS

93 Pulpit Harbor Road
North Haven, Maine 04853

CONTACT

p. 207-867-4707
f. 207-289-6978

WEBSITE

www.northhavencommunityschool.org