

Jason Joyce
Swan's Island
LD 1231

Dear Committee Members,

I ask for your support of LD1231 with a vote of "ought to pass" as written, and urge your support in light of the Department of Transportation Commissioner's testimony and implied public statements of regret. Ending the decades long practice of overnighting ferries on the islands is something DOT humbly admits verbally and in written comments was a mistake.

In light of the risks to boats and infrastructure the poorly planned relocating of the MSFS vessels is too high a price to pay with no benefit to finances or operations. The estimated 7 million dollar breakwater needed in Bass Harbor alone is an unnecessary investment considering the decades long safe dockage on Swan's Island. The cost of securing new housing for crews on the mainland would add millions more to this expensive proposition.

In regards to public safety, the proposed removal of our most efficient and reliable lifeline has caused needless worry and concern to our most vulnerable citizens. The heartless disregard for our sick and elderly by DOT testimony stating "there are 11 unbridged islands who carry their patients down a slippery ramp in inclement weather to a small boat, if those 11 islands have learned to live with it, so can these 4 islands". This is a poorly delivered excuse for a public servant who should actually be seeking to provide better security for the underserved 11 Island communities.

If the legislature does not intervene and support LD1231 and LD 1731, all islanders risk a future reduction of urgent emergency care. Please pass LD1231 and LD 1731 (allowing the current ferry advisory the ability to present recommendations each year to your Transportation Committee).

Thank you,
Swan's Island Selectman Jason Joyce 207-479-6490