

Jacob Wolterbeek
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LD 1231

Dear Transportation Committee,

I would like to register my strong support for the bill to keep the Maine State Ferries docked overnight at their Island Terminals. Several years ago, the residents of Swan's Island raised approximately \$350,000.00 to purchase a new ambulance. They also maintain a dedicated volunteer EMS department. Having the ferry docked overnight at their Island with the ability to transport the ambulance and EMTs to the mainland in less than one hour could very well be the difference between life and death. As you are surely aware, Maine's population is aging, and the Islands populations even more so. The first ferry run in the morning is also how our kids are able to attend high school on the mainland. There are islanders who work on the mainland and depend on that early ferry run. Early traffic from the mainland are generally tradespeople and deliveries for whom 7:30 seems quite adequate. I guess, simply put, the ferry is our lifeline to the mainland, and making it less available, less accessible, and more burdensome makes absolutely no sense. We currently have the best solution available to us, and I can't possibly imagine why we would jeopardize it. Thank you