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Casco Bay Island Development Association

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LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM
APRIL 1965

WHY APPROPRIATION OF $121,000 FOR A PEAKS ISLAND VEHICLE FERRY LANDING IS AN EMERGENCY . . . . .
L.D. 137

1. A recent careful study by members of the Casco Bay Island Development Association revealed that Peaks Island pays to the State in a five-year period over $63,000 in automobile registrations, drivers’ licenses, gasoline and sales taxes, exclusive of the large amount of mainland purchasing of its 1,000 year round residents and 5,000 summer residents. Only indirect benefits are derived with the exception of the recently-built passenger boat landing. No other state services are represented on the islands.

2. The Public Utilities Commission has emphasized the need for a new vehicle ferry landing to provide adequate access to Peaks Island in the interest of public convenience and necessity.

3. Casco Bay Lines has made good on its promise to upgrade its equipment by providing two new vehicle and passenger ferries now in operation.

4. The Casco Bay residents and business interests are very active in the economic development of the islands in promoting growth and other private enterprise facilities. The island residents and Casco Bay Lines are working together in complete harmony to accomplish their mutual aims in the development of this area.

5. The City of Portland is cooperating by agreeing to put the Portland Pier terminal in condition for handling the heavier traffic and loads similar to those proposed in the new Peaks Vehicle Landing.

6. The Maine Port Authority, with knowledge of how other State-owned facilities have worked out, proposed the most practical type of landing which can be built economically to take care of present and future needs. This proposal is contained in a study made for the State by Fay, Spofford and Thorne.

7. 80-year old Jones Landing, built originally as a temporary facility for less and lighter use, is worn out, making further repairs impractical. Its limitation of weight is a deterrent to building activities now desired by steady growth of new residents.

8. A recent check of auto registrations on the island in summer revealed that 32 states, Canada and the Virgin Islands were represented. Increase in traffic and overall investment and purchasing revenues will benefit the entire area, a fact recognized by all local, city, county and state agencies concerned with the residential and vacation growth of Maine.

Unanimously endorsed and supported by the entire Casco Bay area through representation in the Casco Bay Island Development Association, Inc.