

**Office of the Mayor, Ethan K. Strimling**

January 29, 2016

Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator
133 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

As you know, the City of Portland has a very strong interest in continuing ferry service between Portland and Nova Scotia. In recent years the government of Nova Scotia provided a subsidy for the service which is critically important to Maine's economy. The City of Portland has made a significant investment in a ferry pier, terminal, and related infrastructure to support this unique ferry service.

Resumption of service means that Portland will continue in its role as a traveler's gateway to the Canadian Maritime Provinces. All ferry passengers, both to and from Canada, are exposed to our city, its waterfront, restaurants, hotels and other tourist sites. In short, this ferry service results in a massive diversion of visitors travelling in both directions to Portland.

It is also important to note that this is the only ferry connection between Eastern Canada and the United States, so this makes Portland a key entry point for Canadian visitors to the United States.

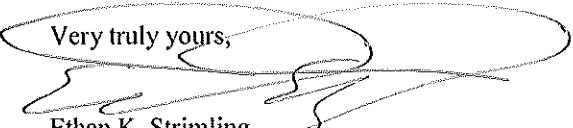
The proposed service will also hopefully bring direct and immediate benefits to our community including:

- The operator estimates that in the order of fifty new jobs will be created in the Portland area in the ferry operation itself. This will be a combination of ship's crew positions and in terminal, marketing, stevedoring and many other categories.
- Certain ship's supplies will be purchased in Greater Portland.
- Based on past approaches, the operator will contract with a wide range of local suppliers of goods and services which could range from technical/IT companies to marketing agencies to machinists and mechanical and structural contractors.
- The large marketing campaigns will inevitably result in direct expenditure to media companies in Greater Portland and Southern Maine.

Finally, the City of Portland itself will receive important facility revenue as a result of this service, and we are excited about the possibilities.

We know that you are working hard to assist in securing a vessel, and we very much appreciate the effort you are making. If the effort is successful, it will bring very significant benefits to our state and the Portland area.

Very truly yours,



Ethan K. Strimling
Mayor, City of Portland