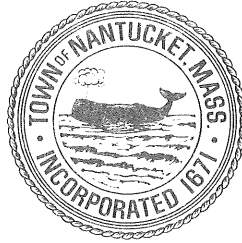


Town and County of Nantucket
Select Board • County Commissioners

Jason Bridges, Chair
Matt Fee
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C. Elizabeth Gibson
Town & County Manager

March 21, 2022

Senator Brendan Crighton
Joint Committee on Transportation
Room 109-C, State House
Boston, MA 02134

Representative William Straus
Joint Committee on Transportation
Room 134, State House
Boston, MA 02134

RE: H4527 An Act relative to the Steamship Authority audit report

Dear Senator Crighton and Representative Strauss:

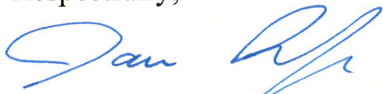
At its meeting on February 23, 2022, the Nantucket Select Board heard a legislative update from Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes. One of the items reviewed was the above legislation. Prior to that meeting, the Town had not been notified by either Legislator that this legislation had been filed. At the Board's meeting on March 9, it was agreed that the Board would discuss the legislation in more detail as to whether or not it should take a position, given the concerning nature of some of the proposed new provisions – such as Term Limits on the Steamship Board members; and, overall, the opportunity that opening the Steamship enabling legislation to other amendments, provides. That discussion occurred at the Board's March 16th meeting. The Town Manager viewed your March 9th hearing on the matter; and, two Board members and the Town Manager attended the Dukes County Commissioners meeting on March 16th where a discussion took place with Representative Fernandes. Dukes County Commissioner Tristan Israel attended the March 16th meeting of the Nantucket Select Board.

As a result of the Board's discussion it was agreed that the Board cannot support the legislation as proposed. Several concerns were expressed, including the rushed and non-transparent nature of the filing; a seeming lack of consideration given to reasons why certain provisions of the 2018 Steamship operational audit have not been implemented; term limits are well within the existing appointing authority's power - having the state take discretion out of the hands of the appointing authority is, at best, inappropriate. If the representative of a particular

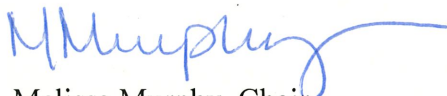
appointing authority is doing a good job in the estimation of that authority, the state should not interfere. At risk of using a cliché, the Steamship Authority is the Islands' Lifeline. It is through the unity of the Islands and the dedication of their SSA representatives that the integrity of that Lifeline is preserved. There is a recent history of efforts to dismantle the Steamship Authority's enabling legislation to give other communities more control over our Lifeline – which could have a disastrous impact on our economies. Economies which, by the way, provide a significant amount of revenue to the state. Select Board members report receiving serious concerns from Island residents as to H4527.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of our Legislators to help Nantucket with numerous home rule petitions and other assistance and guidance – except for this. Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth. We hope our concerns will be taken into consideration.

Respectfully,



Jason M. Bridges, Chair
Select Board



Melissa Murphy, Chair
County Commissioners

Cc: Representative Dylan Fernandes
Senator Julian Cyr
Dukes County Commissioners

Note: In Nantucket, the Nantucket County Commissioners appoint the Nantucket representative (the members of the County Commissioners and Select Board are the same individuals here).