

Dear Steamship Authority General Manager Selection Committee,

I am writing to you as a resident of Martha's Vineyard, a frequent Steamship Authority customer and traveler, and a concerned citizen. I request that in your search for a new General Manager, that you ensure that they will address climate change in their leadership of the Steamship.

Massachusetts is part of the six New England states collaborating to advance a clean, affordable, and reliable 21st-century regional electric grid and to meet our State's mandated decarbonization goals by 2050. All six island towns have endorsed similar goals at town meeting. 45% of the island's fossil fuel is used for transportation, and the Steamship accounts for 14% of that percentage.

I ask that the new General Manager be ready and willing to respond to the realities of climate change, and—

- Make a 25-year plan for how to lower significantly the emissions of the vessels so that fossil fuels no longer are relied upon for their propulsion
- Develop and implement plans for shoreside charging for the vessels
- Develop and implement plans for the 5 terminals and docks that accounts for sea level rise and storm surge

We need to transition to a cleaner way to travel, and plenty of great examples exist. Washington State is the largest ferry system in the US, with 21 vessels, 20 terminals, and 24 million passengers. They are redesigning their vessels to convert them to a hybrid-electric propulsion type without disrupting structural components. Battery recharging will occur portside during loading procedures. Their goal is to be 90% plug-in hybrid by 2040. Denmark has the largest fully-electric ferry, "E-Ferry Ellen" launched in 2019. The ship can carry 30 cars, 200 passengers, and is able to go 22 nautical miles. In comparison, our "Island Home" can take 60 cars, 999 passengers and goes about 8 nautical miles on the Vineyard Haven route.

These examples show us that electrifying our fleet is possible. Recognizing that it takes a long time and considerable funds to acquire new vessels, and knowing that climate change is happening at a rapid pace, I would urge you to begin now by hiring a general manager who is experienced in transitioning and electrifying our fleet for the future.

Kindly,