



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MAINE STATE FERRY SERVICE  
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ROCKLAND, MAINE 04841-0645

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

November 19, 2019

Eric Gasperini  
Chair, Board of Selectmen, Town of Vinalhaven  
19 Washington School Road  
Vinalhaven, ME. 04863

Dear Eric et al.

Thank you for your letter dated October 22, 2019, regarding the standby line on Vinalhaven. We understand your concerns and look forward to working with you to ensure we have a reasonable and well-functioning line-up and boarding system at our Vinalhaven facility.

At MaineDOT, safety is our number one concern. As you acknowledge in your letter, due to the current line up system, an obvious safety issue presents itself six times a day as attendants are forced to walk into the Sands road, sometimes well beyond the terminal property. We have decided that we must address this employee safety concern as soon as possible, while also allowing some time to work out details of the standby line adjustments that will likely be needed.

I wanted to give you a heads up that the first step to address our employee safety concern will begin this Thursday when a MaineDOT crew will be on the island to create openings in the guardrail so that pedestrians and staff can walk on the inside of the guard rail the length of the Ferry Terminal property.

At this time, there will be no change to the standby line procedure (other than MSFS staff working behind the guardrail).

We intend to implement an improved standby line method before the 2020 summer season based on employee and customer safety, improved operations, and ease of use. We strongly believe that based on the public meeting, and the many discussions we've had over recent months, with an even better solution.

Best Regards,

Mark Higgins

Manager of the Maine State Ferry Service