

**Caity Gildart**

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**From:** Flip 1 over <davidfilipos@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025 10:57 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** No 100% Rate Hike Please

To All Concerned:

I would gladly GO BACK to a NO DISCOUNT DAY for AUTO TRANSPORT and go ahead and raise rates if you will across the board for all fares 25%.

Thank You, summer resident ,David Filipos 207-653-0404

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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Carol I. Eisenberg <CEisenberg@rwlb.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:10 AM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Thoughts on Proposed and Previously Adopted Rates

In both the change to passenger rates and proposed changes to vehicle rates I see an effort to shift cost from islanders to visitors, and I agree with that shift.

I have one lingering issue with the passenger rate structure that I thought might have been addressed by now, which is the cost for islanders to have friends and family visit. One idea I've heard and think is promising is to allow passholders to purchase a set number of discounted tickets per month to use for friends and family. I would like to see that issue considered by the Board.

As for the proposed vehicle rate changes, I think they sound generally favorable and likely to accomplish the goal of shifting vehicle costs from islanders to visitors. One concern I have about the proposed change is that it might have unintended consequences with regard to cost to islanders for service vehicles. Most islanders need services from town at some point – septic tank pumping or a tradesperson, for example – and that vendor will pay the higher rate and pass it along to the individual islander customer. It would be good to differentiate in the rate structure between tourists and commercial vehicles servicing islanders so that tourists are the highest rate payers, because otherwise we islanders are going to pay the higher rates for vendors who serve us.

**Richardson  
Whitman**

Carol I. Eisenberg / *Attorney*  
85 Exchange Street, 3rd floor  
Portland, ME 04101  
tel [207.774.7474](tel:207.774.7474) / dir [207.553.5724](tel:207.553.5724)  
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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Heather Thompson <heather@juniperdesignbuild.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:56 AM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Commercial rates

Hello,

I'm writing to urge the CBL board to postpone the vote for commercial vehicle rate changes until the public has had time to review and provide input for all of the proposals, including the new proposal that was presented at the meeting last week. There was time for public review and comment when the passenger ticket rates were changed. There must be time for public review and input for the new proposed commercial rates as well.

Thank you for considering this request.  
Heather

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**Heather Thompson**

**OWNER**

(she/her)

207 653-1392

2 Island Avenue Portland, ME 04108

[juniperdesignbuild.com](http://juniperdesignbuild.com)

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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** vickflan@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:56 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Public comment for public meeting tomorrow

All concerned;

Regarding the public hearing on vehicle rates, May 9, 2025: after hearing various scenarios of the very long board meeting, I decided to watch the recording to see for myself. Yes, I watched the entire meeting.

Wow, that was my first impression. There are so many different opinions and so much conflicting information circulating on next-door, and within the community. I think it's best to focus on the more pertinent facts. I am having a hard time understanding why there are people who can't trust the process. It would've been better if the commercial and passenger auto were done at the same time, but it was not.

The finance board has mentioned numerous times that they plan to continue to address the commercial rates this fall. It's worth noting the board has been working on commercial rates for months but for now decided to adjust them to 23% across the board. They choose to work on them separately for reasons they thought best. I think the reasoning for putting it off and waiting for the new ferry is justified and given its complexity I'm confident the finance board members who have invested a lot of time already, will continue to do a thorough job.

There are a lot of people who are in favor of the two-tier scenario, me included, this because it works for me and I think it best serves the most people, while addressing the fiscal responsibility the board set as to bring down our dependency on federal funds. Federal funds are an integral part of public transportation, but it is reckless to rely too heavily on them. However, I do understand that it's a burden to others to have to purchase a passenger pass to save money. Currently, we can purchase cheap tickets before peak season starts at \$36.00, that are good for 60 days, we have \$36.00 Wednesday, which is challenging, and Monday and Tuesday, \$62.00 fares. (I've rounded fares off).

There are many on the island that already have annual passenger tickets, and they are a bargain. I would choose the boards proposal number two (the 170.00 and

150.00) but am opened to number one, with the following modification/addition: on either, Monday and Tuesday, or Tuesday and Wednesday, or Monday and Wednesday, set a flat rate **58.00** all year long for passenger vehicle fares (without the obligation of purchasing an annual or 90 day pass), except for passenger pass holders who could purchase tickets in the off peaks season for \$48.00 as laid out in proposal number two. It would be a reasonable rate increase for many and would encourage usage on days that are slower than others, hopefully adding to the fiscal health of the ferry service we all rely so heavily on, but more importantly giving options to people that need it. It's a little better scenario than we have now.

In 2008, during the recession the auto fare was increased to \$84.00. That would be approximately \$125.00 today not including all factors, so probably more. It's a shock in many ways to have the price of something so many rely on to be increased so much, not just to individuals but also to the community. We need more common ground.

One concern at the last meeting is the mindset of the board members who decided to hijack the process by including commercial rates into the equation, as a last-minute option. Below are some facts that don't seem to be part of their thought process while rushing to implement an increase in commercial rates.

Commercial rates if not done properly could and probably would have a negative outcome if rushed though. There is a 23% increase across the board for commercial rates in both proposals that will go into effect when one of them is voted forward. That should suffice until a thorough process can be followed.

**If commercial rates are significantly raised on an island**, businesses will likely face increased costs, leading to higher prices for goods and services, potential job losses, and a reduced overall quality of life for residents. This is because the increased costs passed on to consumers are ultimately borne by residents, making everyday expenses more expensive.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Increased Costs for Businesses:**

Higher commercial rates translate to increased operating expenses for businesses, including rent, utilities, and property taxes. This can make it harder for businesses to stay profitable, especially small businesses and those with limited profit margins.

- **Higher Prices for Goods and Services:**

To maintain profitability, businesses will likely raise prices for their goods and services. This would lead to a higher cost of living for residents, making everyday items and services more expensive.

- **Potential Job Losses:**

Higher operating costs can lead to business closures or downsizing, resulting in job losses and increased unemployment. This can further strain the local economy.

- **Reduced Investment and Development:**

Businesses may be less inclined to invest in expansion or new projects if they face high commercial rates. This can hinder economic development and long-term growth on the island.

- **Lower Quality of Life:**

The combination of higher prices, potential job losses, and a reduced overall economic outlook can negatively impact the quality of life for residents. This can lead to feelings of economic insecurity and a decrease in the overall well-being of the community.

- **Difficulty Attracting New Businesses:**

Island economies, already facing unique logistical and infrastructural challenges, may find it even harder to attract new businesses and investment if commercial rates are excessively high, further exacerbating the economic problems.

Peaks, as I'm sure the other islands are as well, are reliant on many different types of commercial services, many of them essential. Ask yourselves: what is the problem with waiting? I think it's worth mentioning that the board members who voted in favor of a rushed scenario, except for one Peaks board member, are not Peaks Island residents. All board members are entrusted with the same responsibility and that is to ensure the continued health of **all the islands**. Please trust the process and don't try to rush it though as an appeasement of sorts.

Thank you for your service and your attention,

Vicki Flanagan  
Peaks Island resident

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

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## Nick Mavodones

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**From:** Mary Lou Wendell <marylouwendell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 6:54 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Lavanture; Joe Donovan; Jean Hoffman; Max Pizey; James Luedke; George Higgins; Paul Belesca; Sharoan Cohen; Nate Cooper; Dave Crowley; William Geary; Mike Murray; Mary Lou Wendell; Nick Mavodones  
**Subject:** We received more than 150 signatures on our petition to stop this preposterous vehicle rate increase.....

....with very little effort. I do not see how you can go ahead and, in good conscience, approve anything tomorrow given the overwhelming opposition you have seen. I will add that if, for some reason, you do approve anything like this tomorrow morning, rest assured we will file a petition against it with the PUC that will have at least five times the number of signatures you see below. People are hurting and they are becoming increasingly vocal.

And, if people get the idea that you folks, especially the pair of you on the finance committee who have propelled this forward regardless of input, I cannot imagine how this doesn't turn into the equivalent of a vote of no-confidence and a call for the ouster of at least some of you.

These are links to the live petition, and below is the full wording.

Mary Lou Wendell, Peaks Island

<https://chnq.it/GH6xDDR2sr>

<https://chnq.it/GbnB5tvccd>

### **Stop the \$190 (Now \$170) Vehicle Rate proposal and Demand a Fair, Inclusive Process...**

You may have heard about recent discussions concerning the Casco Bay Lines' alleged need to increase car ferry rates to \$190 for the 17-minute Peaks Island run from Portland.

Finance Committee Board members at the Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD) say they need to raise the car ferry rates because it's been 17 years since the last increase. They argue that this astronomical increase follows their mandate to make sure the ferry service remains affordable to year-round residents because they are also offering lower rates to people who meet certain requirements. These reduced rates range from \$46 to \$82.65.

These lower-priced options would be available to people who purchase year-round passes (\$432), and to those who purchase 90-day passes (\$144, although this later option incurs an additional \$50 fee to be eligible for the lowered car ferry rates, so really \$194).

The problem is **NONE OF THIS IS AFFORDABLE TO MANY YEAR-ROUND ISLANDERS** who don't have the cash flow to cover the extended passes they'd need to qualify for the reduced rates.

What's more, a number of islanders currently never pay more to transport their cars than \$36, available in the summer on Wednesdays, and every day in the winter. So those who cannot afford to lay out hundreds of dollars at once for extended passes would be forced to pay \$190 for the same trip that currently costs them \$36. That's an increase of 428 percent!

The ferry is the lifeline both for tourists and island residents. Regular people depend on it to get to medical appointments, for emergencies, to buy groceries and all types of supplies, and it needs to become affordable for all residents, not just the few who can afford sky high rates. If this increase passes, long-time residents and families could be priced right off the island. Island businesses stand to lose as well as the impact of exorbitant transportation fees ripples through our entire community.

**If you agree that the ferry should be made affordable, then sign this petition. I**

**If you're worried that this will keep tourists away and hurt our island economy, then sign this petition.**

**If you are worried that this will put even more pressure on limited parking opportunities in town, then sign this petition.**

**If you are worried this will cause boarding delays, then sign this petition.**

**If you are worried about the mental health of the ticketing window and freight staff, and crew, sign this petition!!!**

**The need to do so is URGENT:**

- Already, residents have had a small impact as the board had to delay their final vote on this proposal from May 9 to this coming Friday, this after much debate.
- Despite hearing from many who are against this proposal on MAY 9, and despite the opposition of 83 percent of the write-in comments, many board members, including most of the members who live on Peaks Island, remain vehement in their support of this outrageous increase.
- A number of opponents also cited the fundamental unfairness of the board's recent decision to try to raise car ferry rates dramatically while postponing the scrutiny of existing commercial vehicle rates and setting comparable fare increases to commercial vehicles, which tend to take up more space on the ferry.
- We need to make sure our voices are heard by the members of the CBITD we've elected to make our ferry service affordable for everyone. Stand with us to keep Peaks Island accessible to all!



## Caity Gildart

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**From:** oldbrass <oldbrass@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 7:36 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** In favor of rate change

I am in favor of the proposed rate change for vehicles to Peaks Island. As a long time island resident, I see this as a positive move to limit the overwhelming tourist traffic bringing unnecessary vehicles to Peaks while giving island residents more opportunity to travel on the ferry with vehicles full of groceries or for medical appointments.

Regards,  
Matthew Barnes  
80 Welch St.  
Peaks Isl.

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**Caity Gildart**

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**From:** maryjo roth <maryjoaroth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 7:33 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** rate hike

I am in favor of the rate change. Expanding the days islanders can access affordable tickets can only enhance the quality of island life, not take away from it.

~MJR

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**Caity Gildart**

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**From:** Betty Siegenthaler <betty.siegenthaler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:29 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** rate increase

Please consider how the proposed exorbitant rate increases will be a hardship for many, many property owners on Peaks Island, a neighborhood of Portland, and will restrict access to their homes and property.

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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Mark Micheli <markfmicheli@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Re: Questions

Thanks Caitlin. Much appreciated!

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 9:29 AM Rate Change <[ratechange@cascobaylines.com](mailto:ratechange@cascobaylines.com)> wrote:

Hi Mark

The rates would go into effect 30 days after a board vote, so sometime in June (should the board vote to proceed with a proposal at their meeting tomorrow). No, the Board voted to put the reservation system on hold. There have been many proposals considered over the six months the board has been discussing this issue but I can't speak to whether that exact percentage was considered.

Thanks!

Caity

Caitlin Gildart

Director of Sales & Marketing

Casco Bay Lines

PO Box 4656

Portland, ME 04112

(207) 774-7873

**From:** Mark Micheli [mailto:[markfmicheli@gmail.com](mailto:markfmicheli@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:36 AM  
**To:** Rate Change <[ratechange@cascobaylines.com](mailto:ratechange@cascobaylines.com)>  
**Subject:** Questions

I attended your last meeting and hope to do so again this Friday but have a couple of questions:

1. When would the new rates go into effect?
2. Is the board still considering a reservation system for cars and if so, when would that start?
3. Has the board considered the flat increase proposal of 25-43 percent? If so, would it achieve the same financial goals?

I'm sorry if these questions have already been answered. I've been trying to follow this issue but have missed a few things and would like to get caught up.

Any information you can provide is appreciated.

Thanks again,

--Mark Micheli

Peaks Island, Maine

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## Caity Gildart

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**From:** Peter Robinson <Peter@robinsonandson.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:11 PM  
**To:** Rate Change  
**Subject:** Rates

I would like to share my views as an island property owner but not a full time resident. I commend CBL for running a complex transportation system effectively. Here are my comments:

- 1) the budget gap must be closed, ASAP since federal support at least for the next three years is unlikely.
- 2) Margaret Kelsey's comments on Next Door are excellent and should be read by all of the board and management.
- 3) Margaret's suggestion of a percentage increase across the board is sensible in its simplicity and would seemingly make sense. The amount of rise needed could be backed into expected traffic to set the appropriate percentage.
- 4) it is impossible to please everyone( maybe no one) when faced with a significant rate increase.
- 5) it is essential to protect Island full time residents to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Good luck to the management and board in trying to thread this difficult needle.

Sent from my iPhone

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