

Nick Mavodones

From: Barbara Carter <barbcarter19@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:19 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Ticket Price Proposal

As a 72 yo year round resident of Peaks Island, I am very disturbed by the Ticket Price Proposal as published in the Peaks Island News. It clearly favors commuters to an extreme extent and proposes significant increases to the cost for seniors or infrequent travelers.

Let me explain... I travel to town less than once a week. Therefore, if I purchased a monthly or annual pass, I would pay more per ticket then if I bought individual tickets at half price. The individual tickets for the proposed increase would be nearly double what I am currently paying.

A commuter, on the other hand, who travels three times a week to town, will pay less than \$3. per trip if they purchase the annual pass. Someone traveling five times per week would pay \$1.66 per trip. That would be \$8.30 for 5 trips! And my one trip Peak Season would be \$700. This makes no sense, and clearly is a hardship for those in lower income brackets or on fixed income.

Furthermore, while a tourist on vacation may be willing to spend \$14. to travel to Peaks Island for a day, I think it is way too much to ask of the general public. Again as a senior citizen, I feel that it will further isolate me from my family and close friends. For my daughter and her partner, who work for minimum wages, it will cost them \$28 plus parking to visit me for a day...that is outrageous.

I believe that the full fare should be no more than \$10. (Peak season) and \$6. (Off Peak) The monthly and annual pass prices should be higher than proposed.

Because many people today are working hybrid schedules, and not commuting five days a week, I believe a commuter book should still be offered, but with five tickets that can be used over a period of 10 days.

Personally, I would prefer the off-peak car rates to be raised a bit to offset some of the costs.

The biggest takeaway here is that commuters are being favored with big discounts and seniors (and infrequent travelers) are being gouged!

Barbara Carter
Peaks Island

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Nick Mavodones

From: Paul Hart <paulhart@hdhwine.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate change

We are thankful for the crews and the remarkable service of CBL. We support the rate change and hope the crews and management know what an asset they are to our community.

Thank you.

Paul Hart

Sent from my iPhone



Paul Hart
Chairman & CEO
312.573.5582
Hart Davis Hart Wine Co.
shop.hdhwine.com

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Nick Mavodones

From: Irv Williams <irvwilliams@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2024 6:13 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: comments

Dear CBL Board,

I'm writing to express my satisfaction with the proposed rate change as outlined in the most recent Peaks Island News.

As a senior rider, who generally travels two to three times per week to the mainland, the proposed monthly pass at half price will actually save me money over the current \$2 fare for individual tickets.

I support the concept of equalizing fares between all the islands, as it is really a service that we all use, regardless of destinations.

I support further analysis of downbay schedules and impacts on fares as well. While no one likes to lose a run or two, the lines have to be more cost effective. Long term, it seems to me that the Bay Lines should investigate much smaller and faster vessels (20 passengers?) for off peak use down bay.

Finally, with regards to rates. I sincerely hope you could eliminate bike fares for monthly and annual pass holders. The way I look at it, CBL is my METRO "bus" to town when I commute with my e-bike. You charge me for my bike. But when I disembark and board a METRO land based bus, my bike goes along with me for the ride for no additional cost. CBL, I believe, should offer the same...it would promote green commuting, it would acknowledge that bike commuters take up way less space than cars, and are more fuel efficient for the boats as they are a minute fraction of the weight of cars.

With regards,

Irv Williams
328 Island Ave
Peaks Island 04108

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Nick Mavodones

From: Michael Joyce <joycemichael04101@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:28 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate changes

Please leave senior prices as is.....! MJJ
Sent from my iPhone

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Nick Mavodones

From: Sabrina Plante <splante99@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:37 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Price Increase

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider those of us who live and work on Peaks Island. We don't commute daily and doubling the ticket price seems to be extreme.

As a life-long islander, I feel the current rate structure works best for the seniors, islanders, and those who live on the mainland and commute to Peaks for work.

Thank you,
Sabrina Plante

Sent from my iPhone

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Nick Mavodones

From: Peter Eckel <peter.eckel08@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:50 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: proposed rate change

I support the proposed rate change. The Board has done a great job in creatively addressing a tricky issue. With the proposal most islanders will end up paying less. Thanks for your good work!

Peter Eckel
Peaks Island

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Nick Mavodones

From: Karen Friedman <kfrdmn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 2:31 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate change for seniors

It is important to attempt to charge more for daily visitors to the island, but the new rates will **be particularly difficult for seniors, visiting friends and family members.**

I'm hoping that there will continue to be commuter books and not just monthly and yearly passes.

Could a commuter book for seniors be considered? A senior commuter book with 25 tickets for \$50 - \$75, with a six month expiration date would be helpful.

Monthly passes are not especially helpful because trips to town are inconsistent and unpredictable.

I'm not sure why dropping the cost of an annual pass from \$907 to \$432 makes financial sense. What will make up for the loss of that income?

Someone who buys an annual pass and rides the boat five times a week will be paying less than a single senior ticket per ride. The daily commuter has always carried the burden of providing income for the ferry. I just believe that this proposal is too extreme.

Karen Friedman

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Nick Mavodones

From: Jeff Day <jeffday0813@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 8:58 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Pls revisit rates for seniors and fixed income

I know you are trying to keep rates in check, but the rates are going up too much for seniors and for those who are on fixed or supplemented living. Please revisit this! We all need affordable and reliable transportation and you can't just pass off costs that will impact those who are most vulnerable and in need on the island.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Day
Erin Brady
Homeowner and tax payer on Peaks Island
e: jeffday0813@gmail.com
m: 484-571-7052

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Nick Mavodones

From: Robin Clark <r1peak@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:11 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate change

Hi, I do not agree with the proposed rate changes. At a time when CBITD is running at a loss why would you decrease any income stream? Furthermore, why would you give monthly and yearly passes a 42% and 50% discount? Again, this makes no sense to me when you are running at a deficit?? Having all the ticket prices be the same for any island would require Peaks Island travel to absorb more of the expenses the other islands incur. Again why penalize the profitable runs more than they are? Please do not change the current ticket prices. Robin Clark Sent from my iPhone

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Nick Mavodones

From: Matt Reading <mreading@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Support for proposed rate changes

Hello Board Directors,

I write to offer support for all aspects of the recent rate change proposal:

- * Increasing the single ticket peak season rate to \$14
- * Equalizing single ticket rates for travel to all islands
- * Decreasing monthly and annual fares

I want to thank the board for acting to bolster the finances of Casco Bay Lines and for doing it in a way that will create better harmony between CBL's primary mission to support the transportation needs of island residents, offer sustainable support for increased tourist volume, and keeping CBL solvent in the process.

Concerns will undoubtedly be raised by some, but it remains impossible to please everyone. I urge the board to pass the proposal as is.

Thank you,

Matt Reading
Sterling St, Peaks

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Nick Mavodones

From: Jeff Morton <jeffmorton82@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Rate Change Consideration

Hello,

My name is Jeff Morton. I am a year-round resident of Peaks Island. I currently work from home and only take one, MAYBE two trips per week at most but not frequently.

I've read a lot on Next Door and in the Peaks Island News about the proposed fee changes to passenger tickets. While I generally support these proposed changes, I've been asked to share one big concern I have with this proposal and know many other islanders do as well.

The only concern I have with the proposed fee structure (which others have also mentioned too) is that those island residents who don't travel to town frequently enough to get value from a monthly or annual pass will now see their ticket prices double which is highly unfortunate for residents. Perhaps reducing annual passes even more steeply and using them as the priority boarding pass would help alleviate this concern? Getting more residents on an annual pass is a great idea but make it affordable and worth while for even those who travel back and forth less frequently so they aren't stuck paying double the current rate for a ticket. How about charging more for vehicles in the summer — say increase to \$100 and make it every day of the week, including Wednesday and if you have an annual or monthly island resident commuter card, you would get the current cheap Wednesday rate, regardless of the day of the week. I suspect that these changes would go a long way in strengthening island residents' relationship with the Baylines. I know islanders would be grateful and appreciative of these considerations.

Thanks for considering this input.

Best,
Jeff Morton
Peaks Island

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Nick Mavodones

From: Tamsen Towle <tamsentm@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:19 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: My 2 cents 😊

We thoroughly support the rate change proposed and hope it passes!

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Nick Mavodones

From: Cynde Putney <cyndep@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:21 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: Support of rate change

I am writing in support of the proposed fare changes to Casco Bay Lines . I have lived on Peaks year-round for almost 45 years, and during that tenure have traveled on the Bay Lines in multiple capacities: as a young single working woman, as a working family with children attending private schools, and now as a semi-retired individual who travels infrequently. Although I suppose there might be a slight increase in the fare from current rates for someone like myself; a “senior” who travels infrequently, the total change would be minimal over the year and there obviously needs to be some increase in fares however it is calculated. The overall plan which actually reduces the rates substantially for anyone who travels frequently while shifting the burden of the deficit onto the tourists and others who do not depend on the ferry for daily needs is a tremendous benefit to the local residents and those who work on the islands. As a senior rate rider, even an infrequent one I am particularly looking forward to the ability to purchase a ½ price annual pass. This proposed rate change, along with maintaining the residential pre-boarding program are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Cynde Grace Putney
325 Island Ave
Peaks Island, ME

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Nick Mavodones

From: Gigi Guyton <gigi.guyton@maine.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:36 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: Rate Change

I am in strong agreement with the rate change. I've lived on Peaks since 2017, and I still commute to work. I've purchased a year round pass every year, and the rate change will help me and my family greatly.

Thank you,

Gigi Guyton-Thompson
207-504-0193

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Nick Mavodones

From: Angela Faeth <faethangela@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:46 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Inspired by this rate change

I'm writing say how much this long over due rate change makes so much sense. The commuter passes will support those of us who commute for work. It will support alternative transportation with those that use bikes to get to work (parking in town is challenging at best). It will also help support of the down bay boats, by encouraging ridership to other islands and take the pressure off of Peaks. Bravo!

Angela Faeth
Peaks island.
Sent from my i

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Nick Mavodones

From: Jennifer Bragdon <jennifersquare40@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:45 PM
To: jennfier@cascobaylines.com; Rate Change
Subject: In Favor of Rate Changes

Good evening Casco Bay Lines,

I am a full time Peaks Island resident who purchases an annual pass every year. I am strongly in favor of all of the proposed rate changes. We need to increase revenues while keeping our lifeline of Casco Bay Lines running for those of us who call Peaks our home.

Please let me know if you need any more information from me My cell is 617-413-7371.

Regards, Jennifer Bragdon
25 Jewell Road
Peaks Island, ME

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Nick Mavodones

From: Brian Richardson <brianc_richardson@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:44 PM
To: Rate Change; Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: Rate Change

Attention Rate Change Committee:

I am writing as a daily user of CBL ferry services and a year-round resident on Peaks Island. I think that the proposed rate change demonstrates a responsible plan to provide for a balanced budget.

Given the nature of our economy and the effects of inflation and other variables on expenses, this seems to be the most reasonable intervention at hand. This is especially true since rates have not been increased in a number of years.

I support the proposed rate increase. Thank you.

Regards,

Brian Richardson
167 New Island Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
(802) 490-9714

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Nick Mavodones

From: Brian Richardson <brianc_richardson@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:44 PM
To: Rate Change; Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: Rate Change

Attention Rate Change Committee:

I am writing as a daily user of CBL ferry services and a year-round resident on Peaks Island. I think that the proposed rate change demonstrates a responsible plan to provide for a balanced budget.

Given the nature of our economy and the effects of inflation and other variables on expenses, this seems to be the most reasonable intervention at hand. This is especially true since rates have not been increased in a number of years.

I support the proposed rate increase. Thank you.

Regards,

Brian Richardson
167 New Island Avenue
Peaks Island, ME 04108
(802) 490-9714

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Nick Mavodones

From: Braden Buehler <braden@springtidestudio.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:08 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Please adopt the new proposed rate structure!

Jen Laventure—

My name is Braden Buehler and I have been a year-round resident on Peaks since 2015. I commute daily to Portland for work and almost every weekend for my 14-year-old son's school activities. It's rare for me to go more than a day without boarding the boat. My husband also commutes to Portland three times per week for work and joins us on our weekend appointments and commitments. In the summers, my son commutes for camps and this summer, will be commuting for his first job.

We love living on Peaks but CBL ticket prices are a *significant* financial burden on my family, especially now that my son no longer qualifies for child tickets. Because my son attends a local private high school (on financial aid!) we don't qualify for any of the student discounts/subsidies, either. We buy monthly passes in the summer and commuter books in the offseason (the most economic way possible to commute as frequently as we do) and I will stock up on the maximum amount of blue tickets this Friday to extend that discount as long as possible.

The new rate structure would be transformative for us. We would save so much money! Money that we could use for oil deliveries and firewood and groceries, or any number of the daily essentials that keep costing us more and more each year, and often cost a premium on Peaks.

When I read about the newly proposed rate structure, I was so impressed by its thoughtful, equitable approach to sharing the joys of Peaks Island. Hardly any day trippers will notice the increase to their fare. There are so few recreational activities available at that price anywhere in Maine! It's a bargain even at the proposed higher rate.

We would see—and be grateful for—an affordable commuting option *every single day*. It would mean so much to us to see it adopted immediately. Thank you so much for exploring this option, and please support this relief for working families on the island!

--

Braden Buehler
Springtide Studio

59 Middle Street, Third Floor Left
Portland, Maine 04101

207.387.2025 OFFICE
207.536.5794 DIRECT
207.749.1160 CELL

Nick Mavodones

From: oldbrass <oldbrass@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:59 PM
To: jennfierl@cascobaylines.com; Rate Change
Subject: Rate change

I would like to take this opportunity to speak in favor of the suggested rate change structure being considered. This would save our family a considerable amount of money and finally make getting a yearly pass feasible for teachers which was previously not the case. The new proposal looks to be a very strong move in assisting island families and others.

Best,
Matthew Barnes
80 Welch St.
Peaks Islands

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Nick Mavodones

From: Holly Perry <hollyann75@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:43 PM
To: jennfierl@cascobaylines.com; Rate Change
Subject: Rate Changes

To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly urge the Committee to allow this rate change to go through. The math, without a doubt, makes sense. Working folks are the heart and soul of this island. Allow us the savings so that we can put it towards its best use. Our families.

Holly Perry & Phill Arnold
1 Ryefield Street

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Nick Mavodones

From: jrlausier@myfairpoint.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 8:06 PM
To: Rate Change
Cc: Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: rate change proposal

To the CBL finance committee,

I am writing in support of the CBL proposed rate increase.

I was surprised to read that the 2024 CBL budget would be running with a \$4M deficit. I was equally surprised that CBL has not had a rate increase in the last 15 years even to keep up with inflation.

I don't believe any business could survive without making changes to ensure survival.

I found the rate change proposal to have been very thoughtful for all Casco Bay islanders by cost shifting much of the increase to visitors. I think it will also encourage islanders to move to a monthly or annual pass to take advantage of great savings, therefore, lessening the lines at the ticket office especially in the peak season.

I realize that this will not eliminate the total deficit, but it is a start to ensure CBL's survival as well as simplify the system for employees of CBL and islanders.

Jim Lausier
Lausier Family Gardens - Peaks Island

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Nick Mavodones

From: Eric Conrad <econrad@backshore.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:35 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: New fare structure

I am emailing to say that I fully support the proposed new fare structure. My wife and I have lived year round on Peaks for over 25 years. We use the ferry infrequently, but feel the proposed new structure (including heavily discounted monthly/yearly passes) will be far more equitable for the majority of islanders.

Thank you,

Eric Conrad

--

Eric Conrad, GIAC GSE, CISSP
CTO
Backshore Communications
22 Monument Square
Suite 503
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 200-5867
econrad@backshore.net

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Nick Mavodones

From: Barbara Carter <barbcarter19@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:55 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: rate change proposal

Finance Committee,

This is my second letter about the rate change proposal. I do understand that rate increases are needed and inevitable. However, I believe more time is needed for community feedback and for a more transparent process. It has been nearly a month since the proposed rate changes were posted in the Peaks Island News. I know you have received a significant amount of feedback regarding those changes, and yet the proposal seems to be the same. While my first letter focused on the extreme increase to infrequent travelers. I would like to focus now on the \$14. adult ticket price in the peak season.

I understand that your goal is to simplify the rate structure and have fewer differing prices to accommodate electronic ticketing. However, charging the same rates for all the islands makes no sense to me. Peaks Island is already subsidizing the other less frequented islands, and this just takes it to extremes. It just doesn't make sense to charge the same price for a trip that takes 17 minutes as for a trip that takes two hours. Surely the cost of those trips is quite different in terms of the pay for crew, the fuel costs, and the cost of time. I'm wondering if it could be a little more equitable if you had two rates for the seven islands...less for the closer destinations. For example:

Peak Season

\$10. for Peaks, Little Diamond, and Great Diamond
\$14. for Diamond Cove, Long Island, Chebeague and Cliff

Off Peak

\$7. for Peaks, Little Diamond and Great Diamond
\$10. for Diamond Cove, Long Island, Chebeague and Cliff

I do not think that the \$14. ticket during peak season will deter many tourists, especially those who may come here once or twice in a season. However, many of our more frequent visitors, local neighbors, our friends and family will find it difficult to afford to visit us often. I believe this will really create a feeling of isolation for many of us, especially the older generation, some who do not often travel off the island. Likely many of these people who are most affected will not be a strong voice in this debate because they don't even know it's happening, especially if they are not on social media. I talked with an elderly neighbor today who knew nothing of this proposal.

I was led to believe that there would be a community meeting to present this proposal on Peaks Island, one that would be well advertised. I had heard that the finance committee welcomed feedback. Neither of these seem to be the case. I am a senior citizen who happens to go on social media quite frequently and yet it wasn't until today that I saw a post on NextDoor announcing that Wednesday's finance committee meeting at 7:45 AM would be discussing this proposal for possibly the last time before sending it to the Board. I just don't find that very transparent. It does not feel that the committee is really looking for feedback. There are few people who would be able to get to a 7:45 AM meeting in town. The zoom option is not terribly effective.

PLEASE give this more time! Please make a more sincere effort to inform the community you serve and to give them a more reasonable opportunity to give input on this very important decision.

Barbara Carter
Peaks Island

Nick Mavodones

From: Jennifer Lavanture
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:38 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Passenger ticket rate changes

Jennifer Lavanture

From: Marina Penalver <mipenalver@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:24:30 AM
To: Jennifer Lavanture <JenniferL@casco baylines.com>
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Passenger ticket rate changes

Jennifer, Your email address was spelled wrong in your previous email. You should allow more time for comments before making any decisions.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marina Penalver <mipenalver@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 5:39 AM
Subject: Proposed Passenger ticket rate changes
To: <Jennfierl@casco baylines.com>

To whom it may concern,

As a commuter, and teacher, I am in support of the proposed ticket pricing changes. I expect I will continue to be commuting for the foreseeable future, and the proposed monthly and annual rates would save our household enough money to make up any difference my husband (who does not commute five days a week) would feel from the increase in passenger rates. I mention my work as a teacher, since I would, annually, be spending less to commute, even though I stop commuting daily for two months in the summer.

I have a clarifying question and concern:

Q. Would seniors still get half rates?

I don't fully understand what you mean by "• Same eligibility criteria for half price tickets apply" on the [page headed "Scope and Key Assumptions"](#)

That assumes a reader of your proposal understands all the eligibility criteria in the first place. It would have helped and might clear some others' misgivings if you'd listed all the eligibility criteria right there. You mention children on that page, but **not** seniors or folks with disabilities, which suggests they are not included. Would half rates still apply to seniors?

I'm curious to learn more about your proposals, specifically what is suggested for car ticket pricing. I have family members who take their cars over more than travel on foot, but not frequently.

Thanks for the creative thinking and I hope this works!
Marina Penalver
Peaks

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Nick Mavodones

From: Lauren Webster <laurencwebster@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:32 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: In support of the rate change

It's been 10-15 years without a rate change and organizations cannot operate on a deficit level and remain viable or sustainable. It's time to modernize and increase rates to capitalize on the thousands of day trippers who visit the islands every summer. I am in full support of the proposed ticket rate increase structure.

-Lauren Webster

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Nick Mavodones

From: Molly Ritzo <mollyritzo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7:46 AM
To: Nick Mavodones
Subject: Rate hike

Hi Nick, my name is Molly Ritzo. I am the owner of Milly's Skillet food truck and now run Jones Landing. I am writing to voice my concern and actual disbelief in the rumoured rate hike on ferry tickets. This seems like a knee jerk solution to a problem that has not been well thought out. Has there been any talk of instead of doubling the price of tickets, not dropping the price to \$4.10 in the off season? This to me would seem like a much more understandable rate increase. Possibly not decreasing the car ferry price by \$50 in the off season seems like another alternative. As a commuter boat to a commuter island, the in season ticket price is already impactful for people coming on and off the island daily. I find it hard to believe that anyone at Casco bay lines thinks this is fair or realistic. I have worked on this island for 11 years. There has not been one price increase in that span of time. This is something that needs to be gradual. \$1 per season type of thing. Doubling the price without much notice or time for public input is a slap in the face to business owners and residents of Peaks. I appreciate the tremendous efforts that the casco bay lines crew puts forth however in my 11 year experience it has always seemed as though passengers using these ferries are treated as a problem rather than customers that essentially are the reason for this ferry service. Your customers that already spend thousands of dollars with your company annually are panicking and put in a situation of extreme unease as to our future on the island. We are asking you to reconsider this bold move, take a step back and really think about the impacts this will have on tourist traffic, local visitors, staff, and residents. Please consider other alternatives. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Molly Ritzo

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

Nick Mavodones

From: Lee Sykes <lt20dbl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:08 AM
Cc: Nick Mavodones; Dave Crowley; James Luedke; Joe Donovan; Jennifer Lavanture; Sharoan Cohen; Nate Cooper; William Geary; Jean Hoffman; wbn@portlandmaine.gov; Chuck Radis; Max Pizey; barringcoughlin@gmail.com; choppin@aol.com; Laurie Bowie
Subject: 100% fare increase for casco bay ferry is excessive.

Please reconsider and usher in a more reasonable change to your fee structure. Increasing it to \$10 would be a reasonable increase. Just my opinion, for what it's worth. Lee Sykes. Island visitor.



Virus-free www.avast.com

Nick Mavodones

From: Molly Ritzo <mollyritzo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:11 AM
To: Nick Mavodones; Dave Crowley; James Luedke; Joe Donovan; JI@cascobaylines.com; sharoanc@csscobaylines.com; Nate Cooper; William Geary; Jean Hoffman; wbn@portlandmaine.gov; Chuck Radis; Max Pizey; barringcohghlin@gmail.com; choppin@aol.com; Laurie Bowie
Subject: Rate hike concerns

To whom it may concern, my name is Molly Ritzo. I am the owner of Milly's Skillet food truck and now run Jones Landing. I am writing to voice my concern and actual disbelief in the rumoured rate hike on ferry tickets. This seems like a knee jerk solution to a problem that has not been well thought out. Has there been any talk of instead of doubling the price of tickets, not dropping the price to \$4.10 in the off season? This to me would seem like a much more understandable rate increase. Possibly not decreasing the car ferry price by \$50 in the off season seems like another alternative. As a commuter boat to a commuter island, the in season ticket price is already impactful for people coming on and off the island daily. I find it hard to believe that anyone at Casco bay lines thinks this is fair or realistic. I have worked on this island for 11 years. There has not been one price increase in that span of time. This is something that needs to be gradual. \$1 per season type of thing. Doubling the price without much notice or time for public input is a slap in the face to business owners and residents of Peaks. I appreciate the tremendous efforts that the casco bay lines crew puts forth however in my 11 year experience it has always seemed as though passengers using these ferries are treated as a problem rather than customers that essentially are the reason for this ferry service. Your customers that already spend thousands of dollars with your company annually are panicking and put in a situation of extreme unease as to our future on the island. We are asking you to reconsider this bold move, take a step back and really think about the impacts this will have on tourist traffic, local visitors, staff, and residents. Please consider other alternatives. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Molly Ritzo

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Nick Mavodones

From: Lindsay braverman <lindsaybraverman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:22 AM
To: Nick Mavodones
Cc: James Luedke; Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: PEAKS ISLAND TICKets

Good morning!

I am writing in to voice my opinion about the increase in ticket prices for the ferry to peaks island. I believe the 50% increase to be harmful to the flow and revenue of peaks island. I believe there are other ways to increase revenue for the island that don't include cutting people off to the island. I, along with many friends of mine, will no longer be able to take casual trips to the island, if the ticket price raises 50%.

I feel as though this is very unfortunate and is a bad decision. I hope you can understand some of my concern and listen to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Holt



Mary Lou Wendell

16 reviews • 1 photo

★☆☆☆☆ 24 hours ago

Too expensive and getting increasingly so as the board considers raising the round trip for an individual to more than \$14.



Casco Bay Lines

Owner

Replying publicly

0 / 4000

This customer will be notified about your reply, and it will be publicly visible on your Business Profile

Nick Mavodones

From: Joanne Sterling <jsterling@rcn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:48 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Comments on rate change

Hello,

I think this is a very well-thought out and fair plan. Thank you for all the work you have put into designing and communicating the plan to islanders.

Warm Regards,
Joanne Sterling

jsterling@rcn.com
Pronouns - She/Her
([Why pronouns matter](#))

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Nick Mavodones

From: Meghan Casey <megcasey207@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Jean Hoffman
Cc: Rate Change; Jennifer Lavanture
Subject: Re: Feedback on rate proposal

Thanks for the response, Jean, and the careful explanation. It helps explain some things.

Again, I applaud the efforts to get CBL back on solid financial ground. It was a terrible mistake to leave tickets the same price for 15 years. I have often thought of that as I buy tickets in the summer--why are these always the same price? And not much more than when I lived full time on Peaks? It had to be done.

My main concern is that it is being done with all parties being considered, including island businesses and business owners and the long-term viability of a diverse year-round island community. For instance, I wonder if the price of \$28 for a couple to go out to eat at the Gull or the Inn, or the lobster house will deter Portland people from heading out for a few hours. Maybe not...but it is a concern. My girls and I have worked at Peaks restaurants on and off for about 40 years now, and those Portlanders who come on the 4:30 or 5:30 boat and leave on the 7:45 are a significant part of the restaurant business. I assume the same is true for the ice cream store, bike shop, art galleries, etc. And while island residents might be thrilled to do without day trippers, many would likely be sorry to see some island businesses close. That is always the push and pull of island life. How do we keep the islands vibrant, energetic neighborhoods of the city, keep them from becoming enclaves for only the very wealthy, while still keeping island life healthy and at least somewhat comfortable for residents? Businesses are important to keep the island from becoming an enclave, and the daytrippers who use them are important to subsidize ferry service in winter, but the daytrippers also cause clogged roads and busy sidewalks and leave trash.

And, as always, I am frustrated that the city welcomes tax revenue from Peak's and the other islands, but does not do much of anything to help the islands fit in with the city--to provide ferry service OR mainland parking. In theory, IMO, the city should run CBL and the cost of a ferry ride should be the same as the cost of a Metro ride since the islands are neighborhoods of Portland. (though given the insanity that often prevails on the Portland City Council that would likely not be a great idea). And the city could do much more to manage the crowds on Peaks on weekends in the summer.....Grrrrr....But I know that the workings of the City Council are not your responsibility. 😊 I am just venting.

Thanks again for your explanation, and for your service on the board.

Meghan

On Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 4:20 PM Jean Hoffman <JeanH@cascobaylines.com> wrote:

Hi Meghan

data and results and revisiting the fare structure from time to time, and build the muscle to do that. What we're proposing now, with some adjustments based on feedback, is guaranteed not to be perfect. I think it's an excellent, thoughtful step, which we can assess based on data on actual results, after a year or so, sooner if there is a need.

So, a yes to both of your final questions. Car tickets need to go up and non residents will be eligible for the discounted passes.

Thanks again for writing and don't hesitate to reach out to me, Jen or Nate Cooper of the Finance Committee if you want further explanation. There are good materials Jen has prepared on the fare project page of the CBL website: click on the below, and make sure to visit the link with the presentation and models.

[Finance Committee - Rate Change - Casco Bay Lines](#)

One final point to keep in mind, CBL is projected to lose \$4.3mm this year unless expenses are cut and fares increased. The deficit has mushroomed over the years, it started to increase at a higher rate in 2019 (pre-covid). CBL has gotten massive subsidies from the Federal government, our tax dollars, and some from the State and a bit from Portland. We've gotten a lot of CARES Act funding over the last few years as our deficits mushroomed. That funding is over. Unless we not only address the continued year over year growth in the deficits but also develop the muscle to look financial and ridership data in the eye and reach good decisions, we could be in big trouble and potentially forced to implement drastic measures on an urgent basis to cut service and raise rates far beyond what we're trying to do now.

Jean

Jean Hoffman

Chair, Search Committee and Member, Board of Directors

Casco Bay Island Transit District

jeanh@cascobaylines.com

Please note this is my official CBL email account as an elected member of the board of directors of Casco Bay Island Transit District.

If your message does not concern CBL please use one of my personal email addresses

those who run other destinations or concert sites on Peaks such as the 5th and 8th Maine, Lion's Club, TEIA, etc be a part of the conversation on CBL prices.

Finally--I read all that I could find on the CBL site but still have two questions: 1. Are vehicle rates going to be examined sometime soon as well? 2. Will anyone be able to buy monthly passes or are they limited to year round island residents?

Thank you for taking the time to read all of this and thanks again for your work on this important issue.

Meghan Casey

summer residence:

35 Winding Way

Peaks Island, ME 04108

Notice: Under Maine law, documents, including e-mails, that are received or prepared for use in connection with CBL's business may be public records. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

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Nick Mavodones

From: Laura Glendening <lrglending@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:53 AM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed Rate Change

Dear CBL Board,

I am a Peaks Island resident. First, my family and I typically travel one or two times a week to town and share the same dependence on CBL as someone that travels to town more frequently. We need the boat just like all islanders.

Second, with the new proposed rates changes how are we to maintain family connections? For example if I want my two children (who grew up on the island) to come out for dinner with their partners between April and October it will cost us \$56 to get them to the island. How is this a well lot out proposal for new rates? The new proposed rates have neglected to consider all the ways the boats are used to support sustainable island living for all islanders. And a rate decrease should not be given to one group of islanders while ignoring the needs of other islanders and families.

I ask that you do not adopt the proposed rate changes and go back to the drawing board with an awareness of how all islanders equally depend on the boat for family, work, doctors, and such. The boats, and rates, are directly tied to island sustainability and it is critical that you access, consider, and value all the ways all islanders use and rely on the boats.

Sincerely,
Laura Glendening

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Nick Mavodones

From: r1peak@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 12:07 PM
To: Jennifer Lavanture; Dave Crowley; Dave Crowley; James Luedke; Joe Donovan; Sharoan Cohen; Nate Cooper; William Geary; Jean Hoffman; wbn@portlandmaine.gov; Chuck Radis; Max Pizey; Laurie Bowie; Nick Mavodones; Caity Gildart
Subject: Fw: Proposed Rate Change

Hi Jen, I thought it would need to be approved by the BOD before going to the PUC. What would happen if the BOD approved a modified version, would you have to go back to the PUC? Would you have time to meet up talk about the rate change proposal? Robin

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jennifer Lavanture <jenniferl@cascobaylines.com>
To: Dave Crowley <davec@cascobaylines.com>; James Luedke <jamesl@cascobaylines.com>; Joe Donovan <joeD@cascobaylines.com>; Sharoan Cohen <sharoanc@cascobaylines.com>; Nate Cooper <natec@cascobaylines.com>; William Geary <william.geary@maine.gov>; Jean Hoffman <jeanh@cascobaylines.com>; wbn@portlandmaine.gov <wbn@portlandmaine.gov>; Chuck Radis <chuckr@cascobaylines.com>; Max Pizey <maxp@cascobaylines.com>; Laurie Bowie <laurieb@cascobaylines.com>; Nick Mavodones <nickm@cascobaylines.com>; Caity Gildart <caityb@cascobaylines.com>; Robin Clark <r1peak@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 10:08:42 AM EDT
Subject: Re: Proposed Rate Change

Hi Robin,

The district will conduct a public hearing on the topic in conjunction with the scheduled board of directors meeting this Thursday, April 25th. The agenda for this meeting also includes an item of business for consideration and action regarding the proposed rate change.

I just rewatched the news story to confirm that it was accurate in its presentation of the rate change as a proposal, and also noted that the segment referenced the upcoming meeting.

Jennifer

From: r1peak@aol.com <r1peak@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:17:02 AM
To: Dave Crowley <DaveC@cascobaylines.com>; James Luedke <jamesl@cascobaylines.com>; Joe Donovan <JoeD@cascobaylines.com>; Jennifer Lavanture <JenniferL@cascobaylines.com>; Sharoan Cohen <sharoanc@cascobaylines.com>; Nate Cooper <NateC@cascobaylines.com>; William Geary <william.geary@maine.gov>; Jean Hoffman <JeanH@cascobaylines.com>; wbn@portlandmaine.gov <wbn@portlandmaine.gov>; Chuck Radis <ChuckR@cascobaylines.com>; Max Pizey <maxp@cascobaylines.com>; Laurie Bowie <LaurieB@cascobaylines.com>; Nick Mavodones <NickM@cascobaylines.com>; Caity Gildart <CaityB@cascobaylines.com>
Subject: Re: Proposed Rate Change

Hi All, While watching the local news last night I saw Jennifer and a statement made of the rate change and the price of a single ticket is \$14.00. Has that already been decided by the board of directors? Robin Clark

Nick Mavodones

From: r1peak@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Jennifer Lavanture; Dave Crowley; Dave Crowley; James Luedke; Joe Donovan; Sharoan Cohen; Nate Cooper; William Geary; Jean Hoffman; wbn@portlandmaine.gov; Chuck Radis; Max Pizey; Laurie Bowie; Nick Mavodones; Caity Gildart
Subject: Re: Proposed Rate Change

Hi Jennifer & Nate, I've been running some numbers lately and wondering if there is a specific amount of income you are trying to reach with the increased rates. If so what is that number? Are you trying for \$1,000,000. in increased revenues? I also thought I heard you say that the Operations Committee is working to decrease expenses, what was the target amount they were hoping to meet? Robin

Nick Mavodones

From: Karen Friedman <kfrdmn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 4:58 PM
To: Rate Change
Subject: Proposed family and friends rate

What is the proposal for family and friends? I do not see anything about that.

I do not see how the new rate will raise the revenue that is needed. Unless you are expecting a really big increase in day trippers coming to Peaks Island. I expect for some, the price will make them reconsider. Maybe it's time to increase the day trippers down the bay.

Having less traffic on the boat, would be a great outcome, but it would not increase revenue.

Are you increasing the cost of bringing a car out to the island?

I find the rate increase very upsetting after riding the boat for thirty years and looking forward to buying a senior ticket. The rate may not have changed that much over the thirty years, but it's doesn't seem fair to give frequent commuters such a reduced rate while increasing the seniors. The new commuter passes are much less than what we paid for many years.

Of course, everything costs more and commuters should get a break. But it also costs more for seniors, and I don't have a regular enough schedule to predict when buying a monthly pass would make sense.

Commuter books would be welcomed.

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