From:	Public Comment
To:	Congestion Subcommittee
Subject:	FW: Comments for vehicle congestion at Casco Bay Lines
Date:	Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:02:35 AM

From: Urjasi Rudra <urjasi.rudra@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 4:37 PM
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Subject: Comments for vehicle congestion at Casco Bay Lines

Dear representatives and Board Members of Casco Bay Lines,

I am writing to submit my written comments regarding the vehicle congestion issue at Casco Bay Lines, specifically on Wednesdays. Thank you for inviting public comments and for considering these suggestions meaningfully as you explore solutions.

I am a resident of Peaks Island. I have a few suggestions for resolving the congestion issue:

1. Expand the number of days when vehicles can board the ferry on the discounted rate, specifically for residents. Any solution to resolve congestion should not harm the residents by reducing their access to a reduced fare vehicle ticket. I have read the FAQ on your website and it suggests that you cannot offer a special rate to residents because of anti discrimination laws. Specifically, it states:
" CBITD is a public transit entity with federal requirements in place to prevent discrimination including discrimination between residents and non-residents."

- What exactly is the federal requirement referred here? Is it a law, an ordinance, a principle, guidance or regulation? What is the text of the said rule/law/requirement? Please add reference links. How does this requirement influence the working procedures of CBITD? Several residents of Peaks want a clearer understanding on why residents cannot access a different fee. Federal requirements or laws are also about interpretation and appliance and regulations that allow their appliance.

2. Provide the opportunity to all (residents and non-residents, if proposal 1 is unacceptable) to purchase a set number of bulk tickets for the discounted rate, year round, and to be used on any day of the week. This will take the pressure off Wednesdays.

3. Can there be a pre-boarding line for resident vehicles? You already allow pre boarding for people. The same principle could be extended to people in cars.

The premise of all these suggestions include the fact that Peaks receives more and more people every summer. It's a vibrant year-round community of people. The residents should not suffer or lose out because of any policies this Board/ sub-committee proposes. We are not going to reduce vacation traffic of people or cars by putting in more restrictions. There's no evidence of that happening. We can however create policies that benefit the residents who keep the island running.

Thank you for considering these. All my best,
Urjasi Rudra

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