

Office of the Clerk of the House  
24 Beacon Street, Room 145  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Office of the Clerk of the Senate  
24 Beacon Street, Room 335  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Via email: [municipalitiescommittee@gmail.com](mailto:municipalitiescommittee@gmail.com)

Dear House and Senate Clerks:

As President of the Barnstable Town Council, I am writing to express the Council's support of Senate Bill 1315, An Act relative to municipal equity in Steamship Authority operations. S. 1315 would amend the enabling act of the Steamship Authority to provide more equitable representation to the towns of Barnstable, Falmouth and New Bedford by requiring that, for any action to be taken by the Authority on a matter in which the towns of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket vote the same way, there must also be a vote of at least one of the members of Barnstable, Falmouth or New Bedford in agreement with the Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket votes. This bill takes a small step to grant influence to the three mainland ports.

The Town of Barnstable, as a host community for the Steamship Authority's operations and service to Nantucket, is adversely impacted ~~on a daily basis~~ by those operations, particularly with respect to increases in 18-wheeler traffic and the resulting impacts-stresses on the Town's roads. ~~As the transportation, medical and retail hub of the Cape and Islands, the Town of Barnstable is ever mindful of the need to address and mitigate the traffic and density in our harbor and medical districts through alternate traffic and parking solutions.~~ While the Town supports the mission of the Steamship Authority and is sensitive to the needs of the residents of Nantucket, it is critically important that Barnstable be able to have a real significant voice in the policy decisions of the Steamship Authority to ensure consideration of the real-life effects of those decisions on its citizens. Accordingly, passage of S. 1315 will allow ~~all of~~ the affected municipalities to work collaboratively to find equitable solutions to the issues affecting their towns and the quality of life of their residents.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Levesque  
Town Council President