

The members of the Penobscot Bay and River Pilots Association are disappointed in the Court's decision. The ruling will accelerate the alarming trend of coastal communities restricting maritime access to Maine destinations exclusively to those with the financial means to afford high-end "boutique" cruise ships, while shunning middle-class tourists who travel on more affordably-priced vessels. In a state which bills itself as "Vacationland", individual port town decisions to wall themselves off from the interstate and foreign commerce of the United States by virtue of how visitors choose to travel is hardly encouraging to inclusive tourism. We are examining the decision closely and intend to make a prompt decision about appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit following consultation with counsel and other affected parties.