

**TOWN OF ISLESBORO**  
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April 8, 2019

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
Attention: Caleb Roebuck, Committee Chair  
cc. via email to [ENR@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:ENR@legislature.maine.gov)  
[Brownie.Carson@Legislature.Maine.gov](mailto:Brownie.Carson@Legislature.Maine.gov)  
[Ralph.Tucker@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Ralph.Tucker@legislature.maine.gov)

**RE: LD 1287, An Act To Protect the Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay from Mercury Contamination**

Dear Co-Chairs Carson and Tucker, Senators Chenette and Foley, and Representatives Blume, Campbell, Fay, Gramlich, Hobbs, Johansen, Lyford, Skolfield and Zeigler:

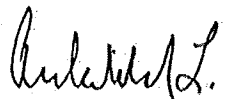
In support of local shellfish harvesting and lobstering, the Islesboro Select Board strongly endorses the sampling and testing protocols found in LD 1287. The Court's ruling in the HoltraChem case and the analysis undertaken by the highly regarded, court appointed scientists favor these protocols. Applying these going forward to all dredging proposals would help protect the economically valuable natural resources in and around our island community and throughout the Penobscot Watershed.


However, the proposed, highly restrictive language limiting any dredging in the region to only that which is "necessary for maintenance of navigation" would harm the Islesboro municipality in three ways:

1. Environmental dredging may be necessary to mitigate mercury contamination in the Penobscot River and Bay. This bill should not prevent the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a permit for any activities, including dredging, that remediate mercury contamination or that abate or minimize the effects of mercury contamination.
2. Underwater utility cables serving Islesboro require dredging for several hundred feet at near-shore locations. Placement, replacement, maintenance or improvements to underwater utility cables requiring dredging should not be prohibited
3. Islesboro, like numerous municipalities and businesses in this region, depends on water treatment outfall lines that require minor dredging. The new language in this bill should not prevent the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a permit for such dredging.

Thank you for your commitment to sound environmental legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Archibald Gillies

  
Sandra Oliver

  
Hanna Kerr

  
Gabriel Pendleton

  
Phil Seymour