

Town of Isle au Haut  
Selectman's Office  
P.O. Box 71 ~ 1906 Stonehall Rd.  
Isle au Haut, ME 04645  
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My name is Peggi Stevens

I am a year round citizen and the First Selectperson on Isle au Haut, a small unbridged island seven miles off of Stonington, Me.

I want to express my support of this LD 2214, part EE, Community Resilience Partnership and part DD, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

We need to establish a Maine Office of Community Affairs. We are a small island with a small population and a town government without much help. We navigate all the same requirements a large community has, but without staff which leaves a few people over working, underpaid and working all the jobs a large community does with a staffed office and a large budget. We need help and the Island Institute has been there to help. We witness the rising tides everyday as we drive through our community and the negative impact it can have if we don't plan accordingly and quickly. Now is the time and we have to seize the moment to better plan for the common challenges, and the possible solutions. We will not have a year-round island community if we do act now. This is a life line and I strongly support this bill which will support Maine's Island communities. The small communities cannot navigate the bureaucracy alone.

I also support the EE part of this bill, Growing the Community Resilience Partnership: \$5 Million additional funds to help support the Partnership to the vulnerabilities to extreme weather. This goes hand in hand with my feeling about the need to do the planning now and fund this Partnership. Isle au Haut has worked with the Island Institute and is in the process of submitting our proposal. Without the help of the program, we would not have had the time or resources to do that. We are busy with the daily work of running a town and these extra resources to investigate resources (grants) are just not within our means. Additional funding is needed to support this Partnership. Maine needs to support it's small communities that have few resources.

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