

Kate Conly  
Edgecomb  
LD 226

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR committee members, My name is Kate Conly, I live in Edgecomb Maine and I am writing to testify in support of LD 226 "An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections".

This is not the first time Maine citizens have gathered to protect and preserve this special place. Have you been there? If so you know it's quiet beauty. But as a large forested and coastal ecosystem it is more than just beautiful, it provides a critical habitat for migrating shorebirds and songbirds. Bird species are in decline and many are steadily losing numbers each year. Habitat loss is probably the biggest contributing factor to this decline. Places like Sears Island with long stretches of shoreline and complex ecosystems are absolutely essential to the survival and perhaps recovery of our bird species and numbers. Please protect this important and lovely stretch of land for the sake of the birds, ourselves and our kids. Thank you.