

My name is Gary Lawless. I live in Nobleboro, Maine. I am writing in support of LD 226, a bill in support of the protection of Sears Island. I was born in Belfast, Maine, and grew up there. Sears Island has always been a special place for me, and I still go there to walk and to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the island.

I share the love of this island with many other human beings. We visit when we can. But other species visit and enjoy the island. It is especially important for the migrations of various bird species, who use it as a safe stopping-over place.

It is also important, of course, for the plants and animals who make their homes on the island, but also for the life in the marine ecosystem around the island, the eel grass and other nursery plants, the fish, the shell fish.

All of this vibrant ecosystem life will be destroyed if the island becomes an industrial port site. To me it makes so much more sense to take Sprague up on their offer to locate the port at their already existing site on Mack Point.

It also seems a shame to contemplate the destruction of the island's ecosystem at a time when there is no forthcoming funding for such a project, and very little

interest being shown by the current administration in any wind power projects.

We have so little protected coastal ecosystems in Maine available to the public for our enjoyment. To me it just seems like the right move to protect this island intact, and not just to protect one part of it while destroying another part.

As a lifelong Maine resident, and a child of Penobscot Bay, I ask that you protect this island, for now, forever.

Thank you for your time.

Gary Lawless