

Katherine Rhoda
Hiram
LD 226

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members,

My name is Katherine Rhoda, I live in Hiram, ME and I am testifying 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".

As elucidated by the International Panel on Climate Change, undeveloped natural places are priceless as buffers against climate change. On that basis alone, it would be reckless to undermine the ecological integrity of Sears Island/Wahsumkik when there is a feasible alternative for a wind port nearby at already-developed Mackie Point.

That in itself should settle the question, but also consider that the island:

- is historically and culturally important to the Penobscot People, who have not been properly consulted;
- is a major stopover for migrating birds; and
- provides significant recreational and educational opportunities, which enrich lives and bolster the local economy.

Also, the current federal administration's hostility to green energy technologies does not portend clear sailing for wind power. While that is, in my view, unfortunate and hopefully not the last word, it also makes it seem all the more prudent not to trash an irreplaceable ecological treasure in pursuit of a wind port project which may well face huge bureaucratic obstacles.

Please take this opportunity to support LD 226. Thank you for your time, your attention, and your public service.

Respectfully submitted,
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