

Sherri Billings
Fryeburg
LD 735

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

My name is Sherri Billings, I live in Fryeburg, ME, and I am testifying in strong support of LD 226, "An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections."

I am deeply invested in preserving the unique natural and cultural heritage of Maine. Sears Island represents a vital part of that heritage. Extending the conservation easement protections through LD 226 is crucial for several reasons:

Preservation of Cultural Resources: Sears Island holds significant historical and cultural value. This bill ensures that these resources are protected for future generations, preventing irreversible damage or loss.

Protection of Natural Habitat: The island's diverse ecosystem provides habitat for numerous species and contributes to the overall ecological health of the region. Extending the conservation easement safeguards this vital natural space.

Ensuring Public Access and Enjoyment: Sears Island offers opportunities for recreation and education. This legislation helps maintain public access, allowing residents and visitors to continue enjoying this beautiful natural area.

Long-Term Stewardship: Extending the conservation easement demonstrates a commitment to long-term stewardship of Maine's natural resources, ensuring that Sears Island remains a valuable asset for our state.

Protecting Sears Island is an investment in Maine's future. It's a chance to preserve a valuable piece of our natural and cultural heritage. I urge you to support LD 226