

Christopher Packard
Hampden
LD 226

Dear Committee,

I write to you and the legislature strongly encourage you to support LD 226. Sears Island is an important cultural feature in the area. Preserving the largest undeveloped, uninhabited, causeway-accessible island on the eastern coast of the United States is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a gift to the future people of Maine which will preserve something which is irreplicable. This publicly accessible natural area is beautiful and important to the people of the region who go there for recreation and spiritual renewal - it is the closest large natural oceanfront to the Greater Bangor Region. While I generally support economic development, working waterfronts, and renewable energy revitalizing and redeveloping existing infrastructure and aging ports and working waterfronts is a far better choice than developing this valuable and unique natural feature. The government of Maine should not build a port, it should invest in redeveloping ports and waterfronts that already exist (for instance: Mack Point could easily be used to achieve the proposed goals of a developing a a floating offshore wind port facility). However there is not alternative choice for a largest accessible undeveloped island on on the East Coast. Over the past decades Maine has already wasted too much money, time, and energy on a series of poorly conceived development plans for Sears Island already. Let's keep the treasure we have and finally permanently protect it in its entirety - and if we need a new port, instead invest in facilities that already exist rather than destroying something irreplaceable. Please pass LD226 and save Sears Island.
Thank you for your consideration.