

Allison Smith  
Knox  
LD 226

Good Morning Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Committee Members,

My name is Allison Smith, I live in Knox, 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.

An unspoiled Sears Island is a huge boon to our community, our economy and to combating climate change.

The International Panel on Climate Change found that intact forests and ecosystems are the best tools for mitigating climate change.

As for recreation and boosting the tourism economy of the region, anyone who has spent time on Sears Island understands that having only part of the island under conservation is not enough. Having an industrial site on the island would irreparably ruin much of the habitat and climate benefits, as well as the feeling of safety, serenity and peace that we enjoy on Sears Island.

Thank you for joining me in support of LD 226

Allison Smith  
Knox, ME