

Anne Burt
Edgecomb
LD 226

Distinguished chairs and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Anne D. (Andy) Burt. I live in Edgecomb. I am here to support LD 226, "An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections."

For many years Searsport, Penobscot Bay and Maine citizens have worked to preserve this island treasure's natural habitats, ecosystems, and historical heritage from industrial development. Just a mile away, Mack Point is already a port for industrial activity.

The island provides diverse habitat and natural resource services that are important to sustaining life. Mature forests and wetlands are valuable carbon sinks, necessary to mitigate accelerating climate change that is warming the Earth and acidifying our oceans. The wetlands provide nutrients and nursery areas for marine life on which Maine's traditional fisheries depend.

Sears Island's natural resources are irreplaceable as well as the beings who depend on them for life. Turning Sears Island into another industrial site is a fool's errand.

I urge you to vote unanimously for LD 226. Today's and future generations will be grateful for your wise decision.

Thank you for your service to Maine.