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Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your time as you consider protecting the coastal dune on Sears Island. As an 8th generation Swan's Island native and fisherman, I appreciate the important role coastal dunes and dune grasses play in coastal resiliency.

During the January 24' storms that tore through the coast of Maine, I witnessed the pummeling of our coastal dune and dune grasses on our southern facing "carrying place beach"

The powerful storms moved rocks and boulders and sand, the natural dune looked completely destroyed after the 2 storm surges of 6-7 feet. As those of us who lived here were dealing with damaged properties and collapsed docks, we did not have time/funds, or a plan to address the dune issues.

A year later, the dune grasses largely survived and continue to hold future storms erosive effects at bay and we are amazed at how this coastal dune naturally plays a role in coastal resiliency.

I urge you to protect the dune on Sears Island. Dunes and their grasses are protected for a reason and the attempted industrialization of Sears Island is not worth destroying the essential and naturally evolved resiliency impacts they contribute to Sears Island and the entrance of Penobscot River. Thank you