

Deb Paredes
Waterville
LD 226

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

My name is Deb Paredes, I live in Waterville, ME and I am testifying in support of LD 226. I have lived in Maine for almost 10 years after acquiring my degree from the University of Maine in Biology and Ecological Science. I have also worked with and for a variety of Environmental nonprofits over the past years. I represent myself in this space.

I stand on this conclusion:

Development of Wahsumkik or Sears Island has been long contented in Maine. While Environmental groups have been pushing hard for development, it is clear to me, the local community, and many Wabanaki citizens that development is emphatically unwanted on the Island. Wabanaki led Sunlight Media Collective has time and again maintained that development on Sears Island is negative, over the silencing of large Environmental groups.

Now more than ever it is important to be in strong support of culturally and ecologically relevant places in Wabanaki territory. As a relatively intact ecosystem it has been important for the health of the Penobscot Bay. The island is a carbon sink, protects the health of the Penobscot Bay estuary, and is important stop for migrating birds and a critical habitat for many more animals.

Moreover, the island is a place where communities have gathered from time immemorial. Disturbance of this would be devastating to all those who call Midcoast Maine their home. Especially when there is another site where this so-called Wind Energy can readily go without as many risks and disturbances.

I implore you to pass LD 226 to protect the Future of Wahsumkik