

Adler Garner
Bar Harbor
LD 226

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LD 741

Hello Representatives,

I am Adler Garner, I am a resident of Bar Harbor, and I am here in support of LD 741, An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections.

This summer I had the opportunity to tour Sprague Energy at Mack Point terminal in Searsport. They explained to us the many attempts The Department of Transportation has made for development on Sears Island. From the illegally built causeway bridge to The DOT's most recent project proposal, an offshore wind site that, if built, would cause mass destruction to areas already under the protection of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Sears Island is The DOT's white whale; it is clear that they do not care about the well-being or protection of the island as the people of Searsport clearly do.

After our tour, my team and some members of The Serria Club went to Sears Island to walk around and take in the nature preserve. On our way over, we saw signs in almost every yard calling for the continued and expanded protection of Sears Island. While we were there, we saw everything from tons of slugs and insects to birds and even a summer camp outing. None of this be able to be there if the Department of Transportation had succeeded in any of their development goals.

Sears Island is a historical island with a rich past in Indigenous history. For centuries, the island has been there for community use and joy, and the Department of Transportation seeks to end that peace. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD741 and extend The Maine Coast Heritage Trusts' easement protection of Sears Island so it can continue to be a source of our history and joy in our lives.