



Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

March 12, 2025

Re: LD 226, *An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections* and LD 735, *An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for Legislation Regarding Land Development*

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to LDs 226 and 735 on behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. Our member companies include wind, solar, hydropower, biomass, and tidal energy generators and developers of such projects, as well as companies that provide services to those producers, such as environmental engineers, electricians, and general contractors.

MREA opposes these bills because, if they become law, they would effectively remove the option to build a purpose-built floating offshore wind port facility on Sears Island. Locating a floating offshore wind port in Maine is a key element to Maine realizing the myriad economic benefits of the offshore wind industry, including skilled, family-sustaining jobs. All port location options must remain on the table. Furthermore, offshore wind stands to play a critical role in achieving Maine's renewable energy goals. We urge the Committee to reject LDs 226 and 735 so that Maine may realize those goals *and* support economic development opportunities in the state.

Thank you,

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Executive Director

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