



Denise Tepler
Senator, District 24

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Denise Tepler in support of L.D. 976, *Resolve, to Restore Accessible Public Transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township*
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
March 24, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and esteemed members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, I am Senator Denise Tepler and I represent District #24 — all of Sagadahoc County, the town of Dresden in Lincoln County, and Perkins Township. My testimony is in support of L.D. 976, Resolve, to Restore Accessible Public Transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township.

I am writing to let you know how important the return of this ferry service is to my constituents. Currently, Swan Island is only accessible to those who are well off enough to own a power boat or hale and hearty enough to row or paddle to the island. Many of my constituents in this area are elderly and poor. Yet, they love Swan Island.

It used to be a place where the community would gather for lobster bakes annually. It used to be a place where school children went to learn about the environment on an island that has wild places and formerly cultivated places.

Without the ferry service, these things cannot happen. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops can no longer plan group camping trips to Swan Island. People can't take the ferry simply for a stroll in a safe, quiet and wild place nearby.

One of my elder constituents was nearly in tears while I sat at her kitchen table in Richmond, describing how much she missed going out to Swan Island.

Bringing the ferry back will bring back equity in the use of this state land, it will bring back a community ownership feeling to the island, it will bring back educational opportunities for area children. Please bring back regular ferry service to Swan Island in Perkins Township.

*Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee * Chair, Marine Resources Committee
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