



Located on the shores of
Black Duck Cove on
Great Wass Island

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Testimony in Support of LD 258

**1 Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund
and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing
Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June
30, 2025**

February 15, 2023

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint
Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

My name is Sara Randall, and I am the Associate Director of the Downeast
Institute located in the Washington County town of Beals. I reside in
Freeport. Part of my job is coordinating the intertidal soft-shell clam
research conducted by Downeast Institute all along Maine's coast.

We are proud to receive this seemingly modest allocation in the 2024 and
2025 biennial budget bill as it represents a vote of confidence by our state
government in our efforts to sustain Maine's valuable and iconic soft-shell
clam fishery. Besides conducting groundbreaking research on behalf of
the fishery, Downeast Institute runs the only soft-shell clam hatchery in
the state, which some of you may have visited recently, and we provide
seed clams to municipalities and others.

This funding, first added to the Governor's budget by John Baldacci, helps
support an important public resource necessary to Maine's economy. We
appreciate your consistent support over the years, and all the work you do
on behalf of the people of Maine.

Thank you for your time and attention and I'm happy to answer any
questions.

*The mission of the Downeast Institute is to improve the quality of life for the people of
downeast and coastal Maine through marine research, marine science education, and
innovations in wild and cultured fisheries.*