

James S. Gillway

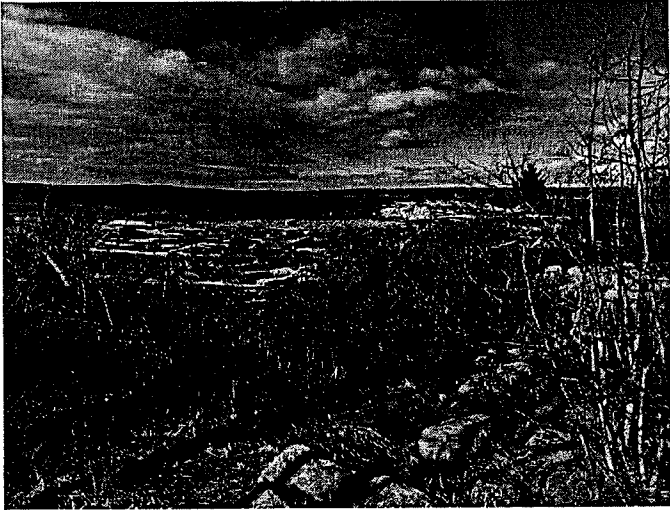
Testimony for LD 2266

**An Act Regarding Offshore Wind Terminals Located in Coastal Sand Dune Systems
March 18, 2024**

Good afternoon, I thank the committee chairs Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and honorable members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of LD 2266. I am the James S. Gillway a former Representative. I live in Frankfort and work in Searsport.

I have lived in Waldo County for all of my adult life and for the last thirty-seven years, I have worked in Searsport. I crossed the sandbar to Sears Island before there was a man-made causeway and I have recreated on the island and fished the waters around the island for decades. I have personally witnessed the changes to the island that have been caused by the installation of the causeway and the installation of the jetty for the proposed cargo port. Before the causeway the sandbar between the island and the mainland could be crossed with a vehicle. There was naturally deposited sand creating the bar. The sand stretched out on both sides of the bar for several feet. Those who dared to cross, needed to plan the trip with the tide in mind or risk a twelve hour stay as the sandbar disappeared under the waves at high tide. As for the jetty, when this was built the shoreline adjacent to it had no sand. It was mud and rock, just as it is today North-Westerly of the jetty. The jetty is trapping the natural depositing of sand that would have been on the sand bar between the island and main land, or today against the causeway.

I hoped to be in Augusta to present my testimony in person but believed there was more value in going over to Sears Island to take some photos of the current conditions surrounding the sand dune system being discussed in this bill today. I would describe it more as a dangerous debris pile of trash and wood with sand mixed in. There are a lot of people who climb over the debris to walk around the island or to reach the water's edge. I can speak from personal experience; this is a dangerous endeavor. Some will passionately argue that the sand and debris deposited South-west of the Jetty is a valuable resource that needs protection. I guess that could be said of a lot of man-made ecosystems. I believe this mess that mother nature has deposited because of our intervention needs to be cleaned up and removed.



South-West Side of Jetty from Island



South-West Side of Jetty from Island



Lobster Trap entangled



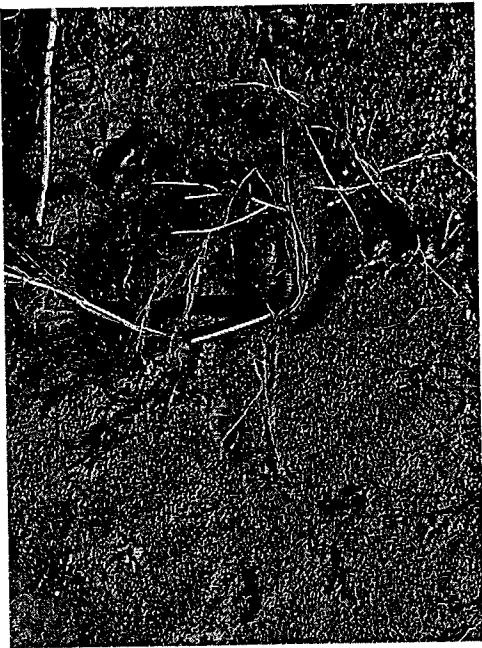
Wood on Top of Jetty



Top of Jetty



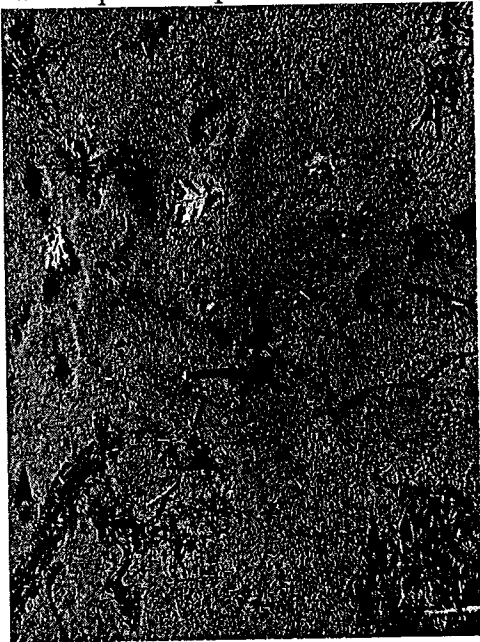
Lobster Trap Entangled



Small plastic Pipe



Aerosol Can



Metal Spike from log under Sand



Debris South-West Side of Jetty



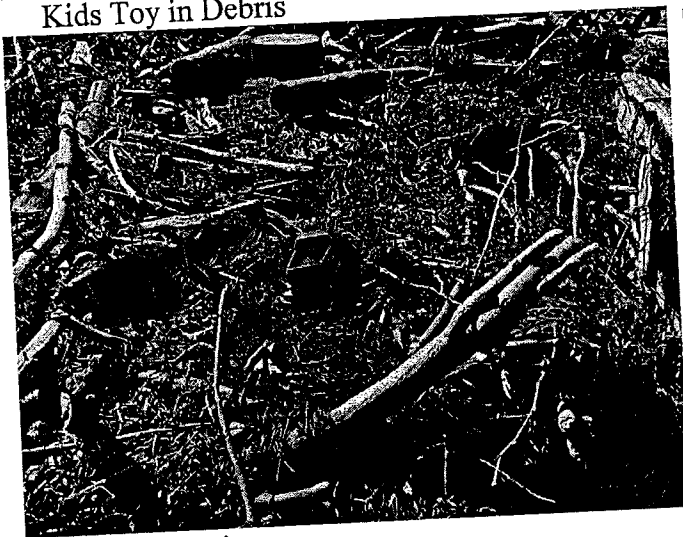
Debris with Trash mixed in



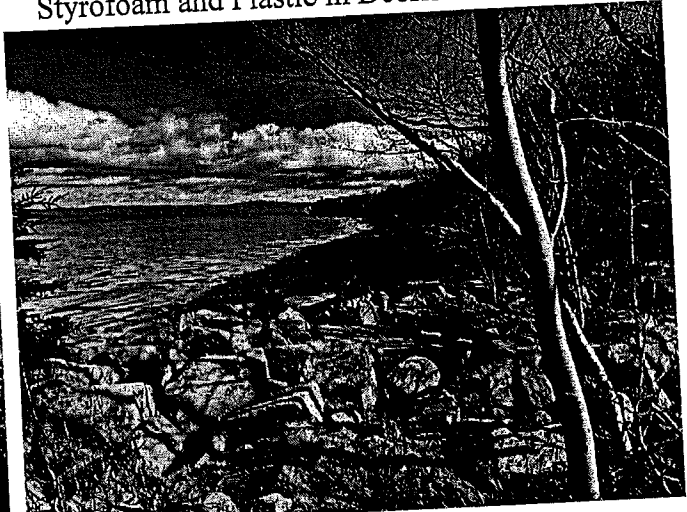
Kids Toy in Debris



Styrofoam and Plastic in Debris



Kids Toy Again



North West side of Jetty