

## Harlan McLaughlin Testimony LD 226

Thank you for considering my thoughts on preserving all of Sears Island for our grandchildren...

My name is Harlan McLaughlin and I live in Searsport....My family has enjoyed the treasures of Sears Island for at least 6 generations that I know of....

Let me start by asking you what do the following things have in common...???  
.... Baxter State Park...Mt Katahdin...The Allagash Water Way...Penobscot Rapids and headwaters....and...Fort Knox.....

Besides all being vital parts of our green tourist industry....(probably our only growth industry).....they were all forced on the State by the people...the State had no interest in supporting these projects and actively fought against them..... Look ahead and it turns out the people were right and now the State is happy to have these places still intact and undeveloped...they brag about them in their ads and ask people to come see them ...big money makers all...

Lets not make the same mistake this time...there is overwhelming support for this idea amongst the people that live here and rarely get involved in anything other than their daily survival...keeping it free makes it available to them...

Perhaps it's time for us to recognize the value natural places add to our lives and to our Tourist Industry....and have a thought about how valuable they will be in the future ....time to stop resisting obviously good, long term ideas to protect wild natural places.....ignoring the will of the people...

The preservation of all of Sears Island is your last chance to add to the places I listed....there are no other places left to save...this is the last one...

My family asks you to be forward thinking and vote to protect Sears Island from development....Your grandchildren will thank you if you do...

Thank you

Harlan McLaughlin  
Searsport