

March 12, 2025

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and ENR Members,

My name is Nancy Galland, I live in Rockland, ME and I am testifying in support of LD 226 "An Act to Protect .... Sears Island in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections".

I want to be unequivocally clear that as a member of the Campaign to Protect Sears Island, I support the concept of off-shore wind turbines, and hope that the day will come when the concept becomes a viable reality.

A year ago today, March 12, 2024, the Bangor Daily News released a snapshot survey of public opinion on the question - "Would you support the proposed wind port project on Sears Island?"

**Yes votes – 232 No votes – 1, 214**

Voting "ought to pass" for LD226 would demonstrate good faith in serving the public's interests: after all, we the taxpayers are essentially, "The State" – we are the owners of Sears Island, and we want it preserved for future generations – all 936 acres.

I ask you:

Does it makes any sense to choose to build a sprawling manufacturing and port facility on a site that is actively sequestering significant levels of carbon through its forests and wetlands, when another nearby industrialized site such as Mack Point, with essential infrastructures in place, is willing and able to serve this purpose?

Don't be deceived by claims that Sears Island would cost less to develop. The State will collect hefty lease fees from the developer of the wind port, no matter where it is sited.

And what then will be the real cost, not in dollars, but in a sustainable future- the loss of natural carbon capture from hundreds acres of trees - gone forever  
– there's nothing renewable about that.

Imagine the roar of heavy road-building equipment ripping through 330 acres of peaceful, pristine forest: heavy-load trucks spewing methane into the air; lights burning all night; construction cranes hundreds of feet high will devastate incalculable numbers of migrating birds trying to land where their ancestors took refuge for centuries.

*The effects on the rest of the island's 600+ acres will be that of a slow death.  
Imagine losing one third of your body, would you survive very long?*

People: the time has come to make wiser decisions when siting fossil-free energy projects. We can maximize carbon reduction in our atmosphere and at the same time protect nature-based solutions that are actively sequestering carbon at no cost to taxpayers: our forests, wetlands, and wild life.  
Please vote YES on both LD226 and LD735.