



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Jan Dodge in support of
**LD 226, An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island
in Searsport by Extending Conservation Easement Protections**
and
**LD 735, An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for
Legislation Regarding Land Development**
Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Good morning, Sen. Tepler, Rep. Doudera and esteemed colleagues of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Jan Dodge, and I represent House District #39, Belfast, Northport and Belmont.

I am before you today to testify in strong support of LD 226 and LD 735. The development of Sears Island through the siting of a wind port facility has generated an unbelievable amount of concern with my constituents and area residents.

The overwhelming majority of communications I receive from members of the public supports protecting this beautiful island! I remain in strong opposition to the destruction of all that Sears Island is and does for our area and the citizens of Maine. It provides carbon sequestration in its soils and forests, habitat and migratory refuge for birds, multifaceted free access to recreational opportunities, preservation of indigenous land and much more.

These opposing forces of development and preservation exemplify the conflict between two worthy and important initiatives. I must state I support increasing our wind and solar power generation, reduction in fossil fuel usage and carbon emissions, and protecting our environment.

I remain so grateful for the Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water Act, the Sierra Club and Maine Coast Heritage Trust and every law and organization that has protected Maine over the years.

Please vote Ought to Pass (OTP) to honor and preserve Penobscot Bay, Sears Island and all that they offer historically, ecologically and recreationally.

Thank you.