

Kelsey Fenwick  
Port Clyde, ME

**IN SUPPORT:**

- **LD 735 “An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for Legislation Regarding Land Development ”**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudara, and members of the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources, my name is Kelsey Fenwick and I live and go lobstering year round in Port Clyde. I am here today to support LD 735 “An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for legislation Regarding Land Development.”

I have many concerns around the industrialization of Maine’s waters, and I feel the legislative initiative in LD 735 seeks to balance future development with a focus on environmental conservation. This would emphasize Maine’s commitment to sustainable and responsible coastal development.

Healthy coastal ecosystems support a wide range of industries, including commercial fishing and tourism. Protecting and preserving Maine’s coastal resources is pivotal for our future. Sears Island should be protected, as it is a wildlife sanctuary for birds, mammals, fish and shellfish alike. Furthermore, developing Sears Island causes many concerns and negative impacts for the existing sand dunes, and eel grass beds. The sand dunes support local wildlife, and the eel grass is crucial habitat for the fish and shellfish populations in Penobscot Bay.

Industrial coastal development would absolutely threaten these precious ecosystems. Sand dunes are already vulnerable to impacts from environmental changes as well as human activities. LD 735 would serve as a necessary protective measure for the sand dunes and the surrounding ecosystems. Protecting the sand dunes is beneficial from an environmental and economic stand point. Altering Sears Island through industrial development would have a negative impact all around.

I ask for you to support LD 735, and recognize the importance of preserving and protecting Maine’s waters from industrialization.