

March 22, 2025

IFW Committee members,

My name is Adele Morgan. I live in Richmond. I'm writing in support of LD 976.

In May 2022 the U. S. Coast Guard ordered the cessation of the only public transportation to Swan Island. Since the ferry stopped:

- Local supervised school groups have stopped their regular visits, depriving young people of their local history and wildlife education.
- Environmental Studies Classes from Bowdoin College no longer visit every semester. Those students will lack exposure to the unique story Swan Island has to tell.
- Local businesses, like Annabella's, The Old Goat and Kimberly's have lost seasonal customer's.
- The historic buildings on Swan Island are decaying. Without public awareness and support, this deterioration will continue. Without the unique structures, the story of the Town of Perkins and the challenges faced by generations on the island, will be lost.

Restoring access will have numerous benefits. In this unique case, the benefits are known, because they were all lost in May 2022.

Regular transportation will return schoolchildren to the island, be an economic driver for Richmond businesses and give the historic buildings on the island a chance to survive. Local fundraising for historic preservation will occur only if there is an awareness of need.

Swan Island is a beautiful wildlife preserve. It should be inspiring future historians, writers, hunters, fishermen, biologists, birders and environmentalists. Access would reconnect our regional treasure to the people, all the people.

Thank you for your time. Please vote in favor of LD 976.

Gratefully,

Adele Morgan