



**Position Statement on the Offshore Wind Port Infrastructure Feasibility Study, submitted by
Maine Department of Transportation**

It's impossible to compare the value of Maine's largest, easily accessible undeveloped island, which would be sacrificed, to the benefit of developing a facility on the western shore to manufacture floating wind turbines, a source of renewable energy. There are countless factors to consider—some can be expressed in numbers while others are simply impossible to quantify. The possibility of over a million cubic yards of earth being carved from the western slope and redistributed to create a huge, flat, compacted area that extends almost 1,000 feet into Penobscot Bay is a very real number. How should we calculate the loss if people could no longer enjoy a serene and restorative visit to the island because of the sounds of industry so close by?

We believe the development of this manufacturing facility would be incompatible with a conservation and recreation area that has experienced significantly increased use during the last three years when we have been able to measure traffic on Sears Island Road over the causeway. From June 6 through August 28 this year, 16,843 vehicles were counted coming to Sears Island, which represents a 19.1% increase since 2019. And these are just the summer months; many people come to Sears Island throughout the year to enjoy it in all seasons. We believe Sears Island is already an economic engine, supporting local businesses and the larger economy in a way that has not yet been measured.

We recognize that there are many steps from where we are now to a time when all permits are approved, and construction has begun. For now, we will wait to learn more as the situation unfolds and new information comes to our attention. We will also do our own due diligence to ensure that, in accordance with agreements reached in 2007, every alternative possibility is fully explored before a final decision is made to locate this facility on Sears Island.

Approved by the Friends of Sears Island Board of Directors

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