



August 1, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the trustees of the Friends of Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, hereby support the Isleboro Islands Trust in their rejection of development on Sears Island, Searsport, ME.

The proposed area of development contains freshwater wetlands, saltmarshes, eel grass and other diverse plant life. This mixture of habitats results in a high biodiversity of both flora and fauna. The intertidal and subtidal habitats provide diverse direct habitat and food chain support for numerous marine species.

The proposed commercial development can be accomplished on the mainland through redevelopment of existing waterfront manufacturing spaces and nearby support spaces. Repurposing used, and possibly "brown", sites is a more responsible stewardship of resources. With mainland options available for this proposed development, there is no need to consider impacting the Sears Island habitat.

Maintaining Sears Island in its current condition will also allow continued recreational use by the many citizens who visit each year. A valuable part of Maine's unique appeal to both residents and visitors is the public access to and enjoyment of waterfront and island properties. Maintaining these green spaces for current and future generations is essential.

On behalf of the entire board,


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Chair

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