



BELFAST BAY WATERSHED COALITION

PO Box 152

Belfast, Maine 04915-0152

belfastbaywatershed.org

info@belfastbaywatershed.org

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To: Alliance for Sears Island

January 14, 2023

During our December board meeting (December 13, 2023), board members discussed the proposed development of a commercial wind turbine manufacturing facility in Searsport Harbor. The Maine Department of Transportation has narrowed their focus on site selection to two primary locations either on the industrial area of Mack Point or the western shore of Sears Island.

Sears Island is a significant ecological, educational, and economic resource that benefits all the communities in the upper mid-coast of Maine and beyond. Closer to home, Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (BBWC) relies on Sears Island as an outdoor classroom in conjunction with our annual Penobscot Bay Stewardship training program, and numerous hikes for our membership. Consensus was reached that the commercial development of Sears Island would undermine the ecological services provided by Sears Island's ecosystems. As a result of this discussion the BBWC Board unanimously passed the following resolution

Statement of Support for Protection of Sears Island from Commercial Development

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition opposes any commercial development of Sears Island. The current Maine Department of Transportation proposal to construct an offshore wind turbine manufacturing and assembly facility in Searsport harbor, if advanced should only be built on Mack Point. To do otherwise will significantly degrade the ecological, educational, recreational, and economic value provided by Sears Island to the community of Searsport and more broadly communities along mid-coast Maine.

Sincerely

Greg Biddinger

President, BBWC Board of Directors

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition works to support conservation and stewardship of natural, scenic, and public access resources of the Belfast Bay watershed through research, community-building, and education.

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition is a nonprofit organization recognized as tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Contributions to the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition are tax-deductible to the fullest extent established by law.