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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

November 21, 2008

Commissioner David A. Cole  
 Maine Department of Transportation  
 16 State House Station  
 Augusta, ME 04333-0016

RE: Final Report of the Sears Island Planning Initiative's Joint Use Planning Committee

Dear Commissioner Cole:

First and foremost, on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the earnest and persistent efforts of the Joint Use Planning Committee (JUPC) and its predecessors, the Sears Island Alternative Uses Committee (SIAUC) and the Sears Island Planning Initiative Steering Committee (SIPIISC). The Transportation Committee recognizes the often controversial and difficult nature of the JUPC's charge, but congratulates you and your fellow members of the JUPC on your positive outcome, which is the "Final Report and Recommendations for Implementation of the Sears Island Planning Initiative."

We are also writing this letter to memorialize the Transportation Committee's unanimous vote in favor of accepting and supporting the JUPC's recommendations, including the draft of the conservation easement, as presented to the Transportation Committee on November 18, 2008.

The next phase for the Transportation Committee, and the Maine Legislature as a whole, will be to introduce and deliberate legislation to clarify the Maine Department of Transportation's next steps before implementing the JUPC's recommendations including, but not limited to, pursuing and obtaining the necessary permits for a marine transportation facility on Sears Island.

Again, we sincerely thank you and the JUPC for your considerable efforts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis S. Damon  
 Senate Chair

Boyd P. Marley  
 House Chair

CC: Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation  
 Members of the Sears Island Planning Initiative's Joint Use Planning Committee  
 Karin Tilberg, Governor's Office  
 Theresa Savoy, Maine Department of Transportation