



CARING FOR THE WATERS OF MIDCOAST MAINE

August 23, 2023

To Whom it May Concern –

We, the Board of Directors of Upstream Watch, hereby support the Islesboro Island Trust in their opposition of the development of Sears Island as an offshore wind port terminal.

Upstream Watch is a non-profit organization based in Belfast, Maine, that advocates for the health of Midcoast Maine's rivers and watersheds through science, education, and public action. We seek a vibrant, diverse and sustainable economy for the Midcoast and all of Maine, and recognize that healthy fresh and saltwater ecosystems are an indispensable part of this goal. As an advocate for our waterways, we understand the urgency of the climate crisis and its far reaching impacts, including on the health of Maine's waterways and Penobscot Bay. We support Maine's pursuit of renewable energy alternatives, however, we cannot support the destruction of green space in the name of green energy.

Sears Island is a place of significant ecological and recreational importance in the region, and one of the largest undeveloped islands on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. Construction of this terminal will result in destruction of critical marine habitat, and impacts to fisheries, and its operation will disrupt migratory birds nesting on the island, and take away from the recreational opportunities afforded by such a unique place.

Should an offshore wind terminal be built in the Penobscot Bay region, Mack Point is the location for it. Mack Point has been an industrial site for more than a century, and redevelopment of this port could allow for the construction of an offshore wind terminal in an already industrialized area, while keeping Sears Island intact.

On behalf of the Board,

Amy Grant
Board President