

Letter from Town of Islesboro: May 27, 2015 Request for Board Jurisdiction

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

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May 27, 2015

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 Commissioner Patricia Aho
 #17 State House Station
 Augusta, Maine 04333
 Email: patricia.aho@maine.gov

RE: DEP # L-26487-08-A-N/L-26487-4E-B-N

Dear Commissioner Aho:

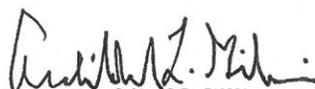
At a special meeting of the Islesboro Board of Selectmen held today, Wednesday, May 27, members voted to request that the Maine Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over the above referenced application and conduct a public hearing.

The Islesboro Board of Selectmen consistently has expressed grave reservations with proposed dredging and the Environmental Assessment, which forms the basis for this application. An alternative that fulfills the primary purpose of the proposal but requires far less dredging has not been considered, sediment from the proposed expansion dredge location has not been properly tested, existing tests show the sediment contains toxics, the activity will destroy lobsters and lobster habitat, winter flounder habitat will be scoured, the southern portion of the expanded dredging is on top of a natural gas deposit and the proposed disposal area is geologically unstable.

Our concerns involve the potential deleterious effects the dredging and disposal will have on the local economy, especially lobstering and the natural resource based businesses of the island. Lobstermen throughout the region, including Islesboro residents, oppose the disposal of these proposed dredge spoils anywhere in Penobscot Bay.

Although the area to be dredged is located in adjacent Searsport, the proposed disposal area is located in Islesboro and Northport. This is clearly a regional issue that requires a most careful, rigorous and publically assessable judicial review by the Board of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,


 Archibald Gillies
 Chair


 Hanna Kerr
 Member


 Sandra Oliver
 Vice Chair


 Jay Zlotkowski
 Member

