

Testimony – LD-1010

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Kendra P. Chubbuck, PO Box 44, Isle au Haut, ME 04645

twinbees@gwi.net

207-335-2200

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, members of the state and local government committee, I am Kendra Chubbuck from Isle au Haut. I am five generations from the island and have been living there full-time (12 months) since 2012. I have been the island fellow advisor for our last two fellows. Over the years, the island has had six fellows. They have been a wonderful addition to the island.

The fellows have worked on:

- affordable housing (buying and building) for Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation
- helping in the library
- organizing the Historical Society
- volunteer at the island school (pre-school – 8th grade)
- day-to-day community support (Examples are MC for talent show, MC for auction, helper at pie auction, helper at strawberry festival, setting up yoga classes, exercise classes, running club, potlucks, creating posters for events, setting up for events, creating newsletters for town, Tuesday Table (free meal twice a month from October to May, etc.)
- volunteer as music teacher at the school (last fellow taught piano and guitar lessons)
- support town with heat pump systems program. One was put in at school, two at town hall, one at general store, and a few homes.
- a fellow created our comprehensive plan for the town.
- ten years later a fellow coordinated a community committee to update the comprehensive plan
- work with the island power company on the solar project program
- coordinated bottle redemption program to raise money to buy house for workforce housing
- coordinated electronic waste program with the school children
- coordinated several beach and island clean-ups
- Wednesday afternoon music on fellow's front porch – bring a chair and an instrument

Isle au Haut embraces the Island Fellows. We learn from them and they learn from us. Their ability to remain neutral on community matters furthers their work and support. What a true asset to have fellows being neutral.

Fellows supporting communities is key for our tiny island because we only have about 50 full-time (12 months) and many do not have the soft skills/degrees/computer skills or no computer to do the jobs needed to be done for the town. We are also an aging population.

I will end with this. Our last fellow, Molly Siegel and a friend raised our \$24,000 for our lighthouse by swimming around the island a mile or two at a time. It is 18 miles around this island, and it took them a couple of weeks. They had people in skiffs and kayaks follow them in case they needed help. So, I am out in our skiff watching these young women swim in rough, log-filled, red jelly fish waters for my community, their community, and I know I could not do what they did! They give me hope for the future of this island, for this state, not just because they do the work that would get done otherwise, but the energy they bring. Thank you for listening.