

Preserve Plum Island Coalition: DO THIS for Plum Island...it's your most critical assignment yet

On Monday, September 23, the Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee is scheduled to "markup" (process by which a U.S. congressional committee debates, amends, and rewrites proposed legislation) its 2020 budget bill, and consider legislation to protect Plum Island. We ask that you consider contacting your friends and colleagues and ask them to take action now.

We believe for the first time that there is a real possibility that legislation could move in the senate. Why? Because for the *first time the staff of both majority and minority members have been in the same room*-learning about and discussing ways that obstacles to Plum Island protection can be overcome. Just a few weeks ago, several members of our Coalition attended such a meeting in Washington, DC, and made our case.

We ask that you ask your constituents reach out to the leadership of the Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee and Senate Appropriations Committee and ask them to include in their bill the same language that has already been approved by the House Appropriations Committee- to repeal the misguided law that impelled the Department of Homeland Security to plan to sell the entirety of Plum Island at public auction.

Here are a number of ways that you can take action:

- 1) Go to the Coalition's website <https://www.preserveplumisland.org/> which allows you to complete and send an e-letter on the home page
- 2) Use this link https://secure.everyaction.com/1PT6wLDt1E2cx_Dwb-Wu5Q2 which takes you directly to the e-letter
- 3) Create your own email and e-letter by using the email and letter, and congressional addresses/emails attached
- 4) Share our Facebook posts at <https://www.facebook.com/PreservePlumIsland/>
- 5) Call the Senate Committee on Appropriations at (202) 224-7257. Making a phone call is very effective!

Thanks for your help! This is our biggest opportunity to date in Congress! - Chris Cryder

If you have any questions please feel free to email ccryder@savethesound.org

Plum Email and Action Alert

Subject: Your most critical assignment to save Plum Island
Email

The Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee are making decisions right now on legislation to preserve Plum Island.

They must hear from you ASAP.

The language repeals the requirement to sell Plum Island and an accompanying report encourages Homeland Security to limit any future use of the island to research, education, and conservation.

Over the past few years, lawmakers from both sides of Long Island Sound and both sides of the aisle have been working hard to delay and repeal the language that put the sale of this ecologically significant island in motion.

This is your most important task to date, send this letter today!

EA Form Opening

The most critical assignment to save Plum Island

The Senate Appropriations and Homeland Security Committees are making decisions right now on legislation to preserve Plum Island.

By filling out the form below, you will ask these committees to include legislation that would preserve Plum Island, NY, for conservation, education, and research.

For greater impact, you can also call the committee office and tell them they must include language to preserve Plum Island in this bill.

Senate Committee on Appropriations: **(202) 224-7257**

Don't forget to share this link with your friends or on social media!

Letter to Senate Committees

Subject: Please help save Plum Island in the DHS appropriations bill

As you develop the 2020 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), I urge you to repeal a misguided, outdated mandate that was included in the 2009 and 2012 Congressional appropriations bills. This law resulted in DHS moving to sell Plum Island, an important island in Long Island Sound. We also ask that you to include language already approved by the House DHS committee that requires any future disposition of the island be only for the purposes of conservation, education, and research.

Plum Island is home to pristine beaches, diverse wildlife, and habitat for migratory birds, marine mammals, and rare plants, as well as cultural and nationally significant historical resources.

The forced sale must be stopped and language that would ensure the long-term protection of the island must be included.

Members from both sides of Long Island Sound, both sides of the aisle, and both chambers have been working hard to repeal the language that puts this ecologically critical island in jeopardy.

Saving this precious island is very important to me, and this legislation will safeguard against damaging development while encouraging conservation and retention of jobs.

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice-Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Emails:

Member offices

Shelby Chief of Staff: dayne_cutrell@shelby.senate.gov

Leahy Chief of Staff: john_dowd@leahy.senate.gov

Capito Chief of Staff: joel_brubaker@capito.senate.gov

Tester Chief of Staff: dylan_laslovich@tester.senate.gov

Homeland Security Subcommittee

Majority Staff: thompson_moore@appro.senate.gov

Minority Staff: reeves_hart@appro.senate.gov

Appropriations Committee

Majority Staff: shannon_hines@appro.senate.gov

Minority Staff: charles_kieffer@appro.senate.gov