



To: Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Ezra Sassaman and Zak Kendall, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Date: May 17, 2023

Re: Testimony in favor of LD 1895: An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and other members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, our names are Ezra Sassaman and Zak Kendall. We are writing as representatives for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ), a coalition of over 470 youth from across the state who are fighting for bold climate action and a just transition to a livable future in Maine. We are writing in favor of LD 1895.

MYCJ supports a just transition to renewable energy according to the timeline science and justice demand. Offshore wind is an important first step in the complete transition away from fossil fuels, which will help ensure a liveable planet for us and future generations. At the same time, we recognize offshore wind projects must include the input of the fishing community and other frontline communities who represent important fixtures of Maine's coastal identity. We recognize the perceived socioeconomic, environmental, and political impacts of this technology and take these concerns seriously.

This fall, our organization heard from various offshore wind experts to better understand a broad variety of concerns and recommendations pertaining to this multifaceted issue. It is important for stakeholders and frontline communities to be included in the planning and decision-making processes that affect them. We believe this bill adopts many of the most important recommendations from the fishing industry and other stakeholders we heard from.

We are especially supportive of ecosystem protection measures, strong DEI and labor standards, and requiring offshore wind development to take place outside of Lobster Management Area 1.

For the above reasons, our coalition, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, urges you to vote ought-to-pass on LD 1895. Thank you.