

**TESTIMONY BY THE MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION  
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 1895: An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from  
Offshore Wind Resources**

Sponsor: Senator Mark Lawrence of York County  
Public Hearing: Thursday, May 18th, 2023, at 1:00 pm

Dear Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

We are writing on behalf of the board and members of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) in support of L.D. 1895: An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources. MIRC is a coalition of over 90 organizations from across the state committed to advancing and defending the rights of Maine's immigrant communities. We (Tobin Williamson and Ruben Torres) are MIRC's Advocacy & Policy team, and we support L.D. 1895 for the following reasons:

**1. Responsible development and economic benefits:** L.D. 1895 establishes the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program within the Public Utilities Commission. This program encourages the responsible development of renewable offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine, which would work toward stabilizing energy prices, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, and generating direct economic benefits for the people of Maine by creating new opportunities for sustainable jobs that provide family-sustaining wages and benefits across various industries and populations.

**2. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** We are particularly encouraged by the emphasis placed on diversity, equity, and inclusion within L.D. 1895. It sets high standards for environmental justice and DEI in energy procurement, which would be a first in Maine; these would be great precedents to set locally. Moreover, this bill recognizes the importance of equitably distributed economic benefits and aims to promote diversity and inclusion in the development of offshore wind projects. This bill takes meaningful steps towards rectifying historical inequities and ensuring that all communities have a voice and share in the benefits of Maine's renewable energy transition.

**3. Local hiring, workforce development, and safety standards:** L.D. 1895 sets forth the establishment of standards for local hiring, workforce development, and safety within the offshore wind industry. By doing so, the bill ensures that offshore wind projects not only contribute to the state's economic growth but also provide career opportunities and professional development for Maine's residents.

**4. Environmental protection and responsible siting:** L.D. 1895 supports the responsible siting and operation of offshore wind power projects, focusing on avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for potential ecological disruptions. This commitment to environmental protection demonstrates a thoughtful approach to the development of clean energy resources, ensuring a harmonious coexistence with Maine's rich natural ecosystems.

These points underscore the importance of L.D. 1895 in advancing renewable energy, economic prosperity, and social equity in Maine. By passing this bill, you can make significant strides toward a sustainable future that benefits all Maine people; therefore, we urge you to consider the tremendous positive impact that this legislation will have on Maine's communities and the entire state. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Tobin Williamson and Ruben Torres  
Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition