

May 18, 2023

Support for LD 1895: An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

To: the Honorable Sen Mark Lawrence (chair), the Honorable Rep. S. Paige Zeigler (chair), and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

I am Anne D. (Andy) Burt, a resident of Edgecomb and long-time climate and environmental justice educator and advocate. **I strongly urge you to unanimously vote Ought to Pass on LD 1895.**

Yesterday, the World Meteorological Organization reported that global temperatures are likely to climb to record highs over the next five years, propelled by human-caused warming and El Nino. Temperatures are likely to exceed the 1.5C limit beyond which scientists fear we may experience dangerous impacts to health, food and water security and the environment.

For more than 70 years scientists studying accelerating climate change have warned us that we must transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources in order to avoid an existential catastrophe. We have continued to procrastinate while the Earth, our island home, is becoming less habitable for life.

Today, this committee can move Maine a big step forward in our transition to powering our lives with a clean energy resource available just offshore. A diverse group of organizations and individuals has created a roadmap that assures that harnessing this resource will create good paying wind industry jobs, will assure that siting protects wildlife and our fishing and lobstering businesses can continue to thrive, and will consult with and provide for environmental justice communities in the continuing stakeholder process. Offshore wind will provide a stable and affordable energy source for Maine people.

For the health and well-being of our children, grandchildren, and future generations of all living beings, please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1895.

Respectfully submitted,

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