

Testimony of Kilton Webb in Favor of LD 2266

Good Morning Senator Brenner and Representative Gramlich and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Kilton Webb and I live in Durham. I am here to testify in favor of LD 2266.

When I was growing up going through the Maine schools I was given the same talk most of us heard, "If you want a good job you have to go to college!" Well, it turned out college was not for me. Thankfully I was able to find a different path and joined an apprenticeship program to become an electrician. Programs like these are great, but the career itself is only as good as the work prospects ahead of us. Climate change is a serious threat not only to Sears Island, Waldo County, or even Maine. Climate change is a globe-shaping threat that must be taken extremely seriously.

Before us, we have the prospect to address both these concerns by creating an Offshore Wind Port in which we have the ability to not only put hundreds to thousands of Mainers to work for generations to come but also help fight on the front lines of Climate Change.

Recently, it was discovered that there are protected sand dunes that have formed due to a jetty on Sears Island. While I understand that ecosystems like these are important, I believe there are ways we can protect these ecosystems and develop Off Shore Wind, our best weapon against climate change. The state should continue to take positive steps to protect other sand dunes on Sears Island or in other places along the coast so that we don't lose more of them, but we should pass this bill so that Sears Island will remain a real option as a place to put the port if the permitting process says that the best place for it to go.

I love my job. I love that I get to go out every day and build tangible things with my hands. I love the fact that electricians are on the front lines of fighting against climate change. I want to be able to say that I am having a tangible positive impact on Climate Change through the work I can do here in Maine. Please take this one step to make sure we have good options for building the port here in Maine and a good future for fighting climate change.