

Maine Joint Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

March 17, 2024

To Committee Members,

The following comments are in regards to LD 2266, An Act Regarding Offshore Wind Terminal Located in Coastal Sand Dune Systems.

This bill is understood to be directed towards facilitating the potential development of a portion of Sears Island as an offshore wind port terminal. In consideration for the potential adverse environmental impact that the results of this bill may create, I propose the following mitigation measure and studies:

1. An environmental study to specifically determine what environmental impacts the granting of the proposed coastal sand dune permit may have to the island and surrounding land and sea areas,
2. That the Maine DOT offer a compensating portion of land on Sears Island, that is currently designated as a Transportation Parcel, with a transfer of the compensating portion to a Conservation Parcel on the island,
3. That the Maine DOT initiate a follow up study to the Moffat & Nichol Concept Design Study dated November 17, 2021 to provide an updated analysis on a minimum of the following subjects:
  - a. The recent announcement by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of an offshore wind port terminal in Salem, MA that is designed to support the construction and installation of floating offshore wind farms in the Gulf of Maine. The Moffat & Nichol study did not consider this as a potential competitor: [MassCEC, City of Salem, and Crowley Announce Agreements for Salem Offshore Wind Terminal | Mass.gov](#)
  - b. The recent announcement by the federal BOEM of where Gulf of Maine offshore wind energy areas can be located. The area is designated to come no further north than the greater Arundel/Kennebunkport area with most of the area further south off the coast of NH and MA, making the Salem, MA location a more competitively situated geographic area than the Sears Island area. The Sears Island location should be reassessed now that this information is available to reassess its commercial viability for its intended OSW port terminal use. [Gulf of Maine | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)
  - c. The failure of several offshore wind projects in the northeast during 2022/2023 should be assessed in terms of the added risks and uncertainties that this raises for the successful development off shore wind in the Gulf of Maine, and how this may impact the success or failure of locating an OSW port terminal on Sears Island.

Sincerely,

Steven Ingalls,

Stetson, ME

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LD 2266

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