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DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE & ENERGY,
UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**"An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State
Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law
Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30,
2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"
L.D. 258**

**OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH CONSORTIUM FUND
March 1, 2023**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) and Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT): My name is Dan Burgess and I am the Director of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO).

The GEO testifies in support of L.D. 258.

This budget advances the Governor's guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, then we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine's greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we lived within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and impact of the proposed investments.

The Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund (Z314) can be found on page A-290. The program was established as part of Public Law 2021, chapter 407, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Power Development in Territorial Waters and Submerged Lands of the State. The Offshore Wind Research Consortium is an initiative of the Governor's Energy Office to coordinate, support and arrange for the conduct of research on offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. The baseline budget includes an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$500 in each fiscal year.

The GEO appreciates your time and interest in our efforts to advance the state's clean energy and climate goals. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DL By". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Dan Burgess, Director
Governor's Energy Office