



Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Mohamed Ibrahim and I'm here today to speak in favor of L.D. 1818. I Live in Lewiston, work for Maine People's Alliance since August 2016 as a community organizer.

I am writing to express my strong support and the support of Maine People's Alliance members across the state for the offshore wind power project that is currently under consideration. As a concerned resident in Lewiston Maine and advocate for renewable energy, I believe that this project has the potential to provide significant benefits to our community and our environment.

Offshore wind will also bring significant economic benefits to the US, creating new jobs and boosting the local economy. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the offshore wind industry will support 83,000 jobs by 2030 and 200,000 jobs by 2050.

First and foremost, offshore wind power is a clean and sustainable source of energy that can help to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate the impacts of climate change. By harnessing the power of the wind, we can generate electricity without producing harmful greenhouse gas emissions or other pollutants that contribute to air and water pollution.

In addition to its environmental benefits, offshore wind power can also create jobs and stimulate economic growth in our region. The construction and operation of the wind turbines will require a skilled workforce, and the project will also create opportunities for local businesses to provide goods and services to the industry.

Furthermore, offshore wind power can help to diversify our energy mix and increase our energy security. By tapping into this abundant and reliable source of energy, we can reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuels and ensure that we have a stable and secure supply of electricity for years to come.

I'm involved on behalf of Maine People's Alliance in coalition with other new Mainers organizations working to educate children and youth about the health impact climate change causes to human life. Particularly and disproportionately People of color, low income and elderly individuals and working together envisioning a community where legislations and policies are written to protect them from the harm of climate change.

A summary of health effects, resources, and adaptation examples from health departments funded by CDC's Climate and Health Program writes; *"The impacts on health due to climate change are both place-specific and path-dependent, meaning the impacts of climate change depend on where you are and who you are, as there are varying degrees of climate exposure and differences in individual and societal characteristics that can either protect you or make you more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. For example, populations including older adults, children, low-income communities, and some communities of color are often disproportionately affected by, and less resilient to, the health impacts of climate change. Adaptation and mitigation policies and programs help...etc"* individuals, communities, and states prepare for the risks of a changing climate and reduce the number of injuries, illnesses, and deaths from climate-related health outcomes.

Overall, I believe that the offshore wind power project is a smart and forward-thinking investment in our future and a step forward to a better and clean air future for all of us. I urge you to support the vote to pass LD1818.