

Testimony from Kilton Webb, in Support of L.D. 1818, "An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects"

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Kilton Webb and I'm here today to speak in favor of L.D. 1818. I am a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567 and a resident of Auburn.

I am just now finishing my union apprenticeship. The long road of gathering those 8000 work hours is not an easy or quick journey. Just under five years ago I got a call from my training director Al Sheppard informing me that he had my dispatch ready for my first job. The job was going to be a solar field down in Kennebunk. Sure that was a bit of a trip for me but I was ready and excited to get the chance to get out there and do some electrical work. It's incredible to me how fast time has flown by. On that job nearly five years ago I was one of the youngest people on the job site at 23 years old. On the job site I'm working on now, a new solar field in Woolwich I'm one of the older members. Solar has been a great thing for the State of Maine, but also the Mainers like myself who come together to build them.

After seeing the staggering amount of work that has kept myself and many others like me busy and employed I am very excited at the prospect of Offshore Wind. Offshore Wind has the potential of providing untold amounts of jobs to Mainers like myself who are already in the field. But what truly excites me is the prospect of having jobs ready for all of today's current middle and high school students. The middle and high school students of when I first started my journey of becoming an electrician are those very same apprentices I work with and teach every day.

In the field, we all know that the other trades are doing their best to feed their family and get by. What truly has me most excited about this bill is the fact that so many different groups of people had input into its formation. Together the lobstermen and fishermen joined us in the building trades to find a solution that will benefit all of us together. Today I am here to ask you, my Senators, and my Representatives, to join us in Support of LD 1818. Thank you for your time and I'm happy to try and answer any questions.