



Mark W Lawrence
Senator, District 35

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Representative Zeigler, colleagues on the Committee, my name is Senator Mark Lawrence, and I'm here today to introduce LD 1895, An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

Offshore wind provides us with rare opportunity to both meet Maine's climate and clean energy goals, and to take advantage of one of the largest economic development opportunities Maine will see this century. LD 1895 builds on the work of Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap process, establishing an offshore wind procurement schedule that will jumpstart the development of a commercial offshore wind industry in Maine, realizing both of these opportunities.

A broad coalition has come together behind this bill, which will strengthen Maine's economy, by stabilizing energy costs, and creating thousands of new family-supporting clean energy jobs. This coalition includes environmental and conservation groups, organized labor, and notably, members of the fishing industry, and many of these groups are represented here today and will speak about specific provisions in the bill.

The bill lays out a procurement schedule starting in 2025, with requirements to contract for 1,000 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2030, and a total of 2,800 megawatts by 2035. The bill includes important safeguards for ratepayers and flexibility for the commission, provisions encouraging regional collaboration, and an authorization to procure shared transmission infrastructure.

Because floating offshore wind development will occur in federal waters, this bill takes the important opportunity to set high standards Maine can be proud of. This includes requirements that ensure dedicated funding streams for research and monitoring for wildlife and environmental impacts, strong labor standards, investing in fishing communities, and ensuring that the benefits of offshore wind are widely shared, and that no community is left behind.

The bill includes an important incentive for projects sited outside of Lobster Management Area 1, that is, the areas where most of Maine's fishing effort occurs. This is a breakthrough, and an opportunity to significantly reduce conflicts and impacts in Maine's fisheries and fishing communities while we develop the clean energy we need to address climate change.

This is the right time for this bill. The federal leasing process is already underway, and other states are looking to the Gulf of Maine for their renewable energy needs. Maine must act now to ensure that our voice is heard, and Maine people benefit from the development of this industry.

LD 1895 will create a Maine-made offshore wind industry, using Maine's technology and talent. It will help us meet our climate and clean energy goals, and it will help stabilize the high energy prices that have been hurting Maine families and businesses all across the state. It will protect Maine's fishing communities, and sets strong standards to ensure this brand-new industry benefits people in every corner of the state.

Thank you for your consideration, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.