



State of Maine
Office of the Public Advocate
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)
www.maine.gov/meopa

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

William S. Harwood
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Testimony Neither for nor Against
LD 1895, “An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind
Resources”
May 18, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is William Harwood, here today as Public Advocate, to testify neither for nor against LD 1895, “An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources.”

The OPA has significant reservations about the proposed weighting of bids submitted by competing offshore wind (OSW) projects. The ratepayer impact is only entitled to 60% weighting, with economic and environmental benefits receiving the other 40%. This suggests that ratepayers may be supporting projects which go well beyond the minimum requirements to build and operate OSW.

The OPA is prepared to support a ratepayer subsidy for development of OSW. However, the subsidy should be the minimum amount needed by the developer to build and operate the OSW project and no higher. Presumably, substantial economic and environmental benefits will flow from any OSW project without increasing the subsidy. Accordingly, the State should select the projects that require the smallest ratepayer subsidy.

I thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 1895 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Harwood".

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate