

Testimony for LD 1895

An Act Regarding Port Facilities to Offshore Wind Power Projects

James S Gillway

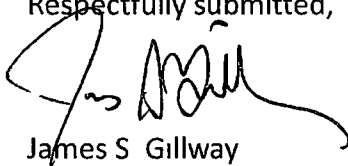
I thank the committee chairs Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee for the opportunity to present testimony on LD 1895 I am the Town Manager for the Town of Searsport and former Representative for District 98 representing Winterport, Frankfort, Swanville and Searsport

LD 1895 is a very robust bill asking to cover a lot of different issues relating to the future of floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine In reading the summary, I believe that most Maine residents can support most of the proposed outcomes I hope that the committee can come together during work session and, if necessary, modify the language in a way to come to consensus Floating Offshore Wind is coming to the Gulf of Maine The lease of the Federal waters to site the projects is underway by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management How and if the State of Maine will participate and benefit from its arrival depends on doing good planning and making good choices now

Almost every coastal state on the east coast has been making investments and passing laws to advance the production of offshore wind Most of this investment has been for fixed bottom offshore wind as the leases for these locations have been awarded and the waters depth will allow for fixed bottom wind

Offshore Wind Energy is not a new industry Fixed bottom offshore wind has been in place in Europe for over 20 years and is very successful The United States is behind in the fixed bottom industry, however, we are on the cutting edge of the emerging Floating Offshore Wind industry Maine is already a leader in this field thanks to the great work being done at the University of Maine We must continue to move forward This bill will help establish some standards for the future of wind energy in the Gulf of Maine and help Maine citizens and the fishing industry to mitigate potential disruptions Like other east coast states, we should be doing everything to help this industry move forward in Maine

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James S. Gillway", written over a horizontal line.

James S Gillway