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**Testimony of Dillon Murray,
Legislative Liaison, Maine Department of Labor
In Support of
LD 2099, "An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects
To the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

Senator Lawrence, Rep. Zeigler and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Dillon Murray and I serve as the Legislative Liaison for the Maine Department of Labor (Department). I am here today to testify in support of LD 2099, "An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects."

At the end of the 1st Regular session of the 131st Legislature, Governor Mills signed into law LD 1895, "An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources." This bill was introduced with the intent to develop offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine with jobs that pay family-sustaining wages and benefits. During the negotiations between proponents of that legislation and the administration, it was assumed the Department had the statutory authority to promulgate rules. However, given the new "Maine emerging industry compensation threshold," contained in the bill, the Governor would like it clarified.

Not only will clarity for both the public and regulated communities around the Department's rulemaking authority be provided with the passage of LD 2099 but input from stakeholders will also be gained via additional opportunities for public comment in the rules process. The Department has taken a transparent approach to rules: we hold public hearings regardless of the major substantive or routine technical nature of the rules chapters being altered or added. The rules process related to LD 2099 will be no different, and we encourage the regulated community to engage in the rulemaking process.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions now, or report back to this body with any answers I am unable to fulfill.

The Maine Department of Labor is committed to serving Maine workers and businesses by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with skills needed to compete in our economy, assisting individuals when jobs are lost, aiding people with disabilities reach career goals, ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job and providing research and analysis of employment data to support job growth.

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