

LD 2266 An Act Regarding Offshore Wind Terminals Located in Coastal Sand  
Dune Systems

March 18, 2024

Good Morning Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Grant Provost, I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7, the Recording Secretary of the Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council and the Vice President of the Maine State AFL-CIO. I rise in favor of LD 2266 An Act Regarding Offshore Wind Terminals Located in Coastal Sand Dune Systems.

So many points ring true for Organized Labor as they do for the State of Maine. Maine's workers are not the only ones who stand to make substantial gains with the building of an Offshore Wind Port, many local contractors and businesses do as well. All aspects of Wind in the Gulf of Maine are moving forward, if we will see the benefit of which is to be determined by you. In the Gulf of Maine the Wind Energy Area has been selected by BOEM, we are proud to see that Lobster Management Area 1 has been excluded from commercial development. In fact, the vast majority of the Wind Energy Area is in the South and West of the Gulf of Maine. Ironworkers Local 7 is very proud to have stayed the course and fought for the LMA 1 exemption alongside our sisters and brothers who make their living on the water.

What will not be a win is a squandered opportunity to build the right size port here in Maine. As seen by generations, when the good paying jobs go out of state so do our kids as well as their families to be. We need to make decisions that promote the effort put in by those at the University of Maine. The hard work of people like Habib Dager and Jake Ward who have designed a state-of-the-art floating hull which exists nowhere else in the world. The same University will train countless graduate students, doctorate students, engineers, professors, and entrepreneurs, to send that talent to other New England States creating an OSW brain train. Our competitors to the south are more than willing to make the type of decisions and investments that will spearhead new economic drivers for their constituents.

Maine Maritime Academy in conjunction with Northern Maine Community College won a grant to gear up and be able to give the specific training local

workers will need to participate in this industry. I know this because I worked hard on a grant to be able to send our local members to this training, with the full intension of their continued employment in Maine. Labor fights for Maine workers being able to come home from long hard day each evening and tell their families they're building Maines future while fighting climate change, so that their kids can enjoy Maine the way they have. Without this bill those Maine workers will still participate in the Offshore Wind Industry, they'll just have to tell their kids about it over the phone instead of at the table.

To make this economic possibility for Maine a reality, tough choices will have to be made, and with each decision comes an opportunity. To build a new port serving as not only a green energy hub but as an incubator for our own home grown technology was always going to come with the need for environmental mitigation. This bill gives us the chance to start strong by showing skeptics that Maine can turn a tough choice into an opportunity, while teaching others how to do the right thing. I support those in the environmental community here today and agree that the loss of this dune system must be compensated for. I look forward to supporting potential solutions identified throughout the legislative process.

I appreciate your time today and look forward to any questions you may have,

Grant Provost

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