

Joseph Hupperich
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LD 2266

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Joe Hupperich, and I live in Bucksport.

I'm writing in support of the passage of LD 2266 "An Act Regarding Offshore Wind Terminals Located in Coastal Sand Dune Systems."

The bill, as amended, shows that Maine is capable of making reasonable trade offs in doing its part to address the existential threat of climate change. Common sense trade-offs like making narrow exceptions for clean energy development of sensitive areas when we're forced to do so.

The recent storms, and the tens of millions of dollars in damage they've caused shows that Maine can't afford to wait in doing its part to address climate change. The best opportunity is in front of us, in developing the infrastructure to support offshore wind right here in Maine, and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels while fostering energy independence for Mainers.

When dealing with a problem of this magnitude, tough choices are ahead. LD 2266 strikes a balance between upholding Maine's long standing tradition of conserving its wild places, and developing clean energy to push back against our changing climate, which poses the largest threat to delicate ecosystems like coastal sand dunes.

I hope the legislature takes seriously the leading voices in conservation in Maine, like the Maine Audubon, and chooses to help us move forward conscientiously by passing LD 2266.