

Dianne Kopec
Hudson
LD 2266

18 March 2024

Dear Senator Brenner, Representation Gramlich, and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I strongly support offshore wind and I strongly oppose suspending Maine's environmental regulations in order to advance a wind port site without a full environmental review. Please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD2266.

The legal protections for coastal sand dunes, 38 M.R.S.A. §480-D and detailed in Chapter 355: Coastal Sand Dune Rules, do not separate out some dunes for lesser or no protections based on their origin or size. Instead, the rules specifically mention the dynamic nature of sand dunes noting that their size and location may be influenced by season, storms, and water level. Coastal sand dunes are recognized as critical habitat for nesting shorebirds and as the base for evolving wetlands as rising sea levels inundate lower tidal marshes.

This ill-conceived legislation would set a dangerous precedent that must not become the basis for our new offshore wind economy. The urgent need for renewable energy does not justify following the same destructive path of environmental degradation laid down by the fossil fuel industry for the last 100 years. Environmental protections exist in response to severe habitat loss resulting from unregulated development.

Please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD2266 to ensure that the needed development of an offshore wind port along the Maine coast is done through an environmentally sound and legal process. Thank you.

Best Regards,
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