

Sunday, March 17, 2024

[AMM Testimony LD 2266.docx]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on LD 2266. I am a full-time Maine resident, registered voter, Ph.D.-certified wildlife biologist, and I teach graduate-level field classes for Johns Hopkins University, including on climate change, recently in Maine. After a review of this bill, I urge you to vote **“ought not to pass” on LD 2266.**

While I support offshore wind and its related infrastructure, having authored the *Draft 2014 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Offshore Wind Energy Guidelines* before I retired from USFWS, LD 2266 would set some terrible environmental precedents — e.g., (1) ignoring and/or preempting existing State and Federal laws and environmental regulations, as well as (2) allowing the State and/or any future administration to avoid existing environmental protection laws by skating around them by using this bill as a model.

The bill would not result in the development of offshore wind in an environmentally responsible manner, begging the question, what’s the point of addressing climate change if we destroy the environment in the process? LD 2266 would preempt the review of the environmental consequences of developing the construction site on climate-fighting coastal sand dunes, coastal beach, coastal wetlands, and the flora and fauna likely impacted, including State and Federally listed species. The State has had adequate time to specifically determine what existing laws are applicable regarding development of off-shore wind, and whose job it is to assure that those laws are fairly and equitably implemented and enforced. They appear to have failed in this review process.

This disastrous bill has been introduced at breakneck speed with its introduction on March 14, a hearing scheduled for tomorrow, March 18, and the likely mark-up the same day. For a project that will likely take at least a decade to complete, the motivations for passage of this bill are suspicious. Because the development of offshore wind energy is so important to Mainers and the climate, let’s do it right from the get-go. Please vote **“ought not to pass” on LD 2266.** Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments. Respectfully submitted.

Dr. Albert Manville
Greenville Junction, ME

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