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LD 2266

I am a full time Maine resident and a registered voter. I urge you to vote "ought NOT to pass" on LD 2266, the Governor's bill seeking exemption from Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act for an offshore wind port facility. It's a matter of both principle and practicality.

If enacted, this bill would set a dangerous precedent: seeking exemptions from environmental laws is not a good way to launch any project, regardless of the merits of the project.

The hastiness with which the bill is being advanced is another reason for pause, and raises concerns about the validity and quality of the project selection process itself.

Governor Mills announced that the Sears Island location "will cost less in the short-term and long-term, and is expected to result in less environmental harm" (Governor's press release, February 20 2024, "Governor Mills Announces Sears Island as Preferred Site for Port to Support Floating Offshore Wind"). If exemptions such as LD 2266 are now needed, it is fair to wonder about other issues that may have been overlooked, and what those mean in terms of added costs and environmental impacts not factored into the Governor's decision. Errors happen, and if errors have been made in the Sears Island analysis, those should be corrected and factored transparently into the location evaluation process, which may change as a result. Seeking exemption from environmental law is not the way to solve them.

Maine's offshore wind power development holds great promise, and transparency is needed from the start to get it right and succeed. I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 2266.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.