

Jeffrey Alley
Jonesport

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jeffrey Alley and I am writing to express my support for bill LD101 An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development. I strongly oppose offshore wind development of any kind, anywhere in the Gulf of Maine for the following reasons:

The inevitable disruption or prohibition of commercial fishing activity within the vicinity of offshore wind equipment which would have a devastating effect on the livelihoods of Maine fishermen. I, myself, am a fifth generation fisherman. I grew up in a lobster boat and have fished commercially for 26 years. My wife, father, brother, uncles, cousins, nieces & nephews are also fishermen. I want to protect my family's fishing heritage and ensure the future of our fishery for generations to come.

Maine's commercial lobstermen are already facing several threats to the future of our fishery such as the relentless hounding from environmental extremists that has resulted in lawsuits & ever mounting regulations to protect right whales from the unsubstantiated risk of entanglements in Maine waters, reduced markets related to the Covid 19 pandemic, reduced bait fish quotas, constantly rising operating expenses, the negative affects from aquaculture development, and now the potential threat of losing fishing area to offshore wind developers.

There haven't been sufficient studies to adequately determine the environmental impact that offshore wind development will have on the Gulf of Maine's marine ecosystem or marine sea birds.

Maine commercial fishermen cannot secure exclusive rights to any piece of ocean bottom therefore neither should any offshore wind developer. Allowing wind developers to obtain ocean leases would open the door to allow other undesirable entities to stake a claim on our Gulf of Maine waters.

I implore the Maine Legislature to support and pass LD101 to ban offshore wind in state waters and to also pressure Maine's federal delegation to protect our federal ocean waters and ban offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Alley
Jonesport, ME