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Liberty

This bill is a misguided and premature move by Republicans in the Maine Legislature to ban offshore wind projects before we have even started building them. "The costs borne by those who earn a living on the water" are not even known for the fishing industry in the Gulf of Maine, especially for floating offshore farms such as the Aqua Ventus project by the University of Maine. This literature review by World Wildlife Fund in 2014, reviewed multiple studies of the established offshore wind power plants in the North Sea, and while the WWF admits that each geographic area requires its own studies, it concluded "that with proper planning and mitigation measures it is possible to construct offshore wind farms without significantly damaging the environment in the North Sea. In response to Rep. Faulkingham's quotes in this article (BDN), Aqua Ventus is a University of Maine project, and while they are collaborating on the pilot project with foreign partners like Mitsubishi Corp and RWE Renewables, once they have mastered the technology, will go to the State of Maine to develop a full blown project. So what is the threat to Maine's Lobster industry, that it needs saving from (as indicated on the bumper sticker on this truck)? We don't even know yet because it has not been studied enough, and yet here we have Rep. Faulkingham trying to ban all offshore wind projects using a scare tactic, that he does not have evidence of, to back his claims. His only suggestions are nuclear (never going to happen in Maine again) and hydro (which we are also backing away from across the country). I would suggest we do an environmental impact study of the Gulf of Maine (as the WWF recommends) and try and figure out first if a threat to our Lobster industry does indeed exist or not, before we try and ban attempts to develop this excellent source of power.

https://www.wwf.no/.../84-wwf_a4_report__havvindrapport.pdf

The above quotes were my testimony response after reading Bangor Daily News article entitled "Maine Fishermen Push for a Complete Ban on Offshore Wind Projects" dated 5 May 2021 -

<https://bangordailynews.com/2021/05/05/politics/maine-fishermen-push-for-a-complete-ban-on-offshore-wind-projects/?fbclid=IwAR2H1RudS0Q2IgSrx8Ug7kmOzKF3r0TBNe8dpxmeEbS7hivdnEmT3g3doBc>