

**Via Electronic Mail**

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Mark Lawrence  
Chair, Energy, Utilities, & Technology Committee  
Senate Democratic Office  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

The Honorable Seth Berry  
Chair, Energy, Utilities, & Technology Committee  
House Majority Office  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Re: Northeast Clean Energy Council Written Testimony on LD101, An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development and LD1619, An Act to Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters**

Dear Chair Lawrence and Chair Berry,

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (the "Council") appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding LD1010, An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development and LD1619, An Act to Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters. Offshore wind represents a transformative opportunity to accelerate the clean energy transition in the northeast with homegrown resources. The Council supports responsible offshore wind development that recognizes the interests of all stakeholders, while capitalizing on the significant potential for Maine in developing offshore wind projects. Maine should not be hampering its own economic development and energy future by prohibiting this critical resource.

The Council is a clean energy business, policy, and innovation organization whose mission is to create a world-class clean energy hub in the Northeast, delivering global impact with economic, energy and environmental solutions. The Council is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. Council members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and "smart" technologies.

Considerations of the impact on marine activities are embedded in the procurements and permitting for offshore wind development in states up and down the East Coast. The procurements recognize the significant environmental and economic development benefits the nascent industry has to offer. Responsible development balances the concerns of the fishing community, environmental groups, the offshore wind industry, and other stakeholders. The Council urges Maine to chart a path forward for offshore wind development off the coast of Maine in a manner that recognizes the potential benefits that attracting offshore wind investment can bring to the state. This path forward should set targets for procurement to ensure the state

is on pace to meet its climate commitments and to provide a signal to industry to invest in Maine.

As a result, the Council strongly opposes LD101 which would create a blanket prohibition the approval of any offshore wind project.

We appreciate the leadership of Governor Mills in advancing the innovative Aqua Ventus project, which can serve as a guide to responsible path to meaningful commercial offshore wind development off of Maine's coast. As the Legislature considers LD1619 and other ways to manage Maine's coastal resources, the Council recommends that the Legislature take an approach that recognizes the various considerations involved in integrating offshore wind into Maine's energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on LD101 and LD1619. The Council strongly supports responsible and sustainable offshore wind development. The considerations of stakeholders can be appropriately balanced to allow offshore wind to contribute towards meeting Maine's emissions commitments and stimulating economic development. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Dan Bosley

Dan Bosley  
Government Affairs Executive