

May 4, 2021

Honorable Mark Lawrence
Chair, Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
Cross Building, Room 211
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development

Dear Chairman Lawrence and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), I want to thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in opposition to LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development

CEA is a nationwide association made up of both energy consumers and producers working to advance all-of-the-above energy and environmental policies that will lower energy costs for every American. CEA supports actions that thoughtfully advance our nation towards a cleaner, more environmentally responsible energy future. We believe that responsible policies always consider the needs of consumers while leveraging and supporting the development of state-of-the-art technologies to improve our environmental stewardship, aiding in the continued reductions of all emissions.

While we respect the intent of the bill's sponsors, CEA believes that blanket prohibitions or moratoriums placed on any energy resource are not the best way to approach energy policy. Offshore wind is a nascent industry in North America and the reality is, even without passage of LD 101, it would be years before wind turbines would be constructed off of Maine's coast.

However, should LD 101 pass, it would continue the recent trend of opposition to energy infrastructure—whether it be imported hydroelectricity from Canada, terrestrial wind farms or expansion of natural gas pipelines. Each energy project, including offshore wind developments, should be judged by the project's merits. Better questions are whether it will provide affordable, reliable electricity to consumers without negatively impacting the environment; and could potential impacts to existing fisheries be mitigated? If LD 101 passes, none of those questions will be asked.

Consumer Energy Alliance, which was formed to create and advance constructive dialogue between energy consumers and energy producers, views the offshore wind sector and its supply chain as a unique mixture of both consumption and production. The projects themselves have the potential to create more affordable, low-emission power, while the industries providing the materials and services such as steel, concrete, turbines, transmission cables, data management, as well as vessel construction and maintenance, all require substantial amounts of that affordable, reliable and crucially, low-emission power. Offshore wind will in fact help lower the carbon footprint of other businesses by making an essential input – energy – lower-emitting.

Maine has recently adopted aggressive renewable energy and emissions reduction requirements. Eliminating one of the resources that can help meet those requirements without the opportunity to assess the pros and cons of any given project on an individual basis will restrict Maine's ability to affordably and reliably meet those goals.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to oppose LD 101.

Sincerely,



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