

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology.

I am writing to ask for your support of LD 101.

I am 38 years old and I am a full time lobsterman from Southwest Harbor, Maine. I have been fishing all my life and have lived on the coast of Maine in Southwest Harbor. My father was a fisherman as well along with my brother. I go lobstering offshore since I can remember but have been fishing as a captain offshore on my own since I was 18 years old. I have over a million dollars invested in my career. I recently built a 44 Calvin Beal after fishing my 42 OEM for 10 years. Before that I fished my 37-foot MDI that I started out my offshore career on. I support my family with this income from offshore fishing for a good portion of the year as I fish inshore part of my season as a majority of my fishing is done offshore.

I urge you to understand the fishing community and what the wind farm will do to our livelihood and heritage that so many only know. I am from Mount Desert Island. We are a tourist community that people come to see Acadia National Park and of course Lobster which is our Maine attraction for tourist to come and see the lobster boats coming in from haul. We deal with countless people coming to take pictures as to buy fresh lobster that come from all over the world to eat our fresh Maine Lobster. It's what Maine is truly known for. My career will likely end because of the windmills because it takes a lot of money to be able to go fishing. Between bait and fuel to gear to stay up to date on regulations. I have two crewmembers that I also have to worry about so they can provide for their families.

If you support LD 101 I hope you know that you will help so many Maine families. You will keep our way of life going which is my family's heritage. Green energy is great, but when the cost outweighs the benefits, its time to re-evaluate. The immense area these turbines take up would certainly displace hundreds of fishermen, putting many right out of business and for those with the grit to keep going, it will create unheard of gear conflicts and tangles in neighboring areas where they are forced to move to. The dredge process for laying the cable is very destructive. It will instantly kill anything in its direct path as they lay the cable and create a huge underwater sediment cloud that will bury and suffocate even more marine life. The turbine blades will kill many birds, including our puffins. There is very incomplete data on how EMF will affect marine life. It will ruin our gulf of Maine ocean floor. Instead of rushing along massive projects we need to keep doing more research. We should study all things good and bad about the wind farm and cables and talk to fishermen there as well as everywhere in the world there has been an OSW and fishing overlap, to learn truly what's going on in depth before we consider even one project in Maine. Also, with Maine already getting almost 80% of our power from renewables, why the rush? We're just going to sell the power out of state. Please don't take away independent family businesses just so corporations can sell power. Please consider other resources such as our hydro dams that are already in place and could be used to future green energy. Please support LD 101, thank you.

Sincerely,
Brandon Bunker