

Local 4 OPERATING ENGINEERS

International Union of

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Testimony of Robert Burr on behalf of International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 4 Maine/NH

**In Opposition to LD 101, *An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development*
And**

**In Support of LD 1619, *An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power
Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters***

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Robert Burr, I reside in Scarborough and I am testifying on behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 4, in strong opposition to LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) represents heavy equipment operators and mechanics in the construction sector throughout the United States and Canada. IUOE members have helped build the infrastructure that moves and powers America – from bridges and skyscrapers to power plants and pipelines.

For over a decade, Maine has consistently taken steps to become a national and global leader in the offshore wind industry. The State has recognized that this path promotes clean energy generation that benefits our warming Gulf, but also that this industry holds great potential for Maine's economy. Union members and businesses in other eastern states from Massachusetts to Virginia are already finding high-quality, high-paying union jobs in connection with over 22 gigawatts of commitments to offshore wind in shallower waters, with New York and New Jersey benefitting from 38,000 direct and indirect jobs in development and construction. Maine is leading in floating turbine technology, and our members are ready to put their expertise to work to grow this industry for Maine's benefit.

This bill does nothing to prevent offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine's federal waters, and puts fishing interests at risk by surrendering our own interests in the Gulf to other states and the federal government. We can't stop offshore wind in the Gulf, but we can prevent this industry and its quality jobs from being exported out of state.

We do, however, support LD 1619, because it represents a well-reasoned approach that protects state waters while allowing offshore wind farther out to support a significant new source of onshore economic activity for Maine and organized labor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Burr', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert A. Burr
Business Representative
IUOE Local 4 Maine