

Elizabeth Conry  
Waldoboro

If ld101 and ld1619 are the only two legislative options available when it comes to the potential development of offshore wind power in Maine, then I must support ld101. I share every concern listed in the preamble to ld1619 and applaud the effort to take the time to ensure that developing this power source would be right for our environment, our economy, and our electricity rates. However, the moratorium should be applied to all offshore wind projects. The proposed wind energy demonstration project near Monhegan Island carries all the same concerns of a larger installation, just on a smaller scale. Perhaps offshore wind power will prove to be a good solution to our renewable energy needs, but without environmental, economic, and electric rate impact studies to support moving forward with this technology, I cannot support it even on a demonstration scale. If the studies come back to show that this is a viable renewable energy source, then a demonstration in our waters might be appropriate. Our state needs renewable, green, affordable energy, but we need to be careful that any alternative energy source we seek meets those criteria. I have real concern that offshore wind will never be our best source of renewable energy. Given the current legislative options for offshore wind power, I must support a total ban as a total moratorium is not an option.