

John Drouin
Zone A Lobster Management Council

Dear Committee Members,

My name is John Drouin and I have been a lobster fisherman from Cutler for 42 years. I am also the Chair of the Zone A lobster management council. Zone A covers the entire coastline of Washington County and the council represents over 1,000 licensed fishermen¹

Today, I am writing on behalf of the Zone council to give our support for LD 101.

We believe in renewable energy, but not at the cost of the fishing industry, which is what we feel will happen in the future with wind power in our coastal region or ANY region of the waters of Maine!

I also would like to say that back when the University of Maine was looking for a suitable site to develop and test a deep water anchoring system for a floating windmill site, Cutler was high on their list. I personally took staff out on my lobsterboat to show them that in any of the coastal waters of Cutler, and beyond, that there was no room for even an experimental site. From lobstermen to scallopers to groundfishermen, our States waters are already precious to so many, which provides good paying jobs for thousands of Mainers. Trying to replace one industry with another does not make any sense.

Cutler is bound by Canada to our east, which is only a few miles away...not like 20 or 50 miles, but less than 10.... and we won't even discuss the "gray zone".

Fishermen in this area of the coast have no where to fish as it is now....if we lose any area to fishing it will be economically devastating! And to push the issue to the west...Jonesport and surrounding harbors, will just compound the fishing problems. Wind power may be a potential producer of power, and Maine has lots of uninhabited land where windmills could be built....but the ocean is not the place for them.

Thank you for your time and I hope you pass LD 101.

John Drouin
Cutler Maine