

Julie Eaton  
Deer Isle

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and Distinguished members of the committee,  
My name is Julie Eaton and I am a lobster boat captain from Deer Isle. I am writing in  
OPPOSITION to L.D. 1619.

Please consider that we as lobstermen move our gear with the lobsters. Granted most fishermen fish inside the 3- mile line for part of the season but MANY move beyond that as the lobsters move offshore beyond that. To squeeze all the big 40'-55' boats who normally spend most of their time offshore into such a small area with the majority of boats that range from 14' skiffs to 32' , is not only dangerous but will result in a sizeable increase in "ghost gear" (traps that get parted from their lines and buoys) littering our bottom. A large boat takes more room to turn and maneuver and in an area already congested with existing gear, they will have no choice but to run over traps. A ford focus takes less room to turn than an 18-wheeler. In the same way, My 28' boat for example takes far less room to turn than a 50' boat. In a tight corner, the 18-wheeler will hit cars if not given proper room.

Secondly, Why only 10 years? If your intention is to provide "protection to the fishing community, why isn't this a permanent mandate?

Third, once you set a make when the wind turbines must stay out side of, you also tell them how close they can be! They will build these giant windmills just outside the 3-mile line! Not only will they be seen but will directly interfere with our navigation systems, our coastal ecosystems and our safety. Why wouldn't they build as close as they can? After all, it is far cheaper for them, Right??? My Brother always tells me to follow the \$\$! He is right.

If you are hell bent on this wind EXPERIMENT, why not push them out to the 40 mile line? This is as far as our fishing zones reach. Why when there is an option, do you have to run them right through our fishing zones?

We have a sustainable fishery. We feed the world delicious fresh seafood and generate a huge economic plus for the State through our work and our image, through our seafood and through tourism. You will find that our tourism councils will never advertise "Come to Maine and see the wind turbines".

Fishing for us isn't just what we do and have done for generations, it is who we are! It is like breathing!! We live in small coastal communities and on remote islands. We are NOT Portland, Augusta or Bangor! We don't have cell service, traffic lights or McDonald's. Our job opportunities are limited. We fish, work on the docks, truck supplies in/out, bring bait, ship lobsters out, repair and build boats, sell marine supplies and other jobs that support our industry. We are rural Maine! I am 1 hour from Walmart and others are much further! I can walk the roads with out fear at night. I could knock on any door at any house and they would feed me if I was hungry. I know my neighbors well and cook for them when they are sick and loan them my possessions when they are in need. We live a simple life and like it that way! We are the people Maine was founded by and who will fight to preserve our way of life. We ask that you vote ought not to pass on L.D. 1619.

Sincerely,  
Capt. Julie Eaton