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To whom it may concern,

Development of Offshore Windmills in the gulf of Maine will cause economic downfall for every family and business directly related to the marine fisheries as well as business indirectly related to the fisheries. On paper windmills look like a good machine to produce energy for our countries ever growing electrical grid but there are many reasons to why it isn't. For example, this past spring Texas had a massive winter storm that left many windmills frozen as well as other power plants. The windmills experienced frozen blades and there was not enough energy on the electrical grid to utilize the de-icers. Which left thousands of people and businesses in the dark. IF offshore windmill sites are placed in the GOM we will without a doubt witness the same thing.

The next downfall, is the wind never blows at a constant speed or some days not at all. They claim to fame for the turbines is the max megawatt output at maximum efficiency. Anyone who has a back ground with any mechanical device will tell you that 100% efficiency is unattainable. As efficiency drops so doesn't the megawatt output of the turbine. As the turbine efficiency drops and gross megawatt output drops, the pay off period per turbine extends making them less economical to operate.

The ecological impact associated with offshore wind is an area with little research open to the public. Myself and fellow Maine lobstermen are waiting NOAA to release their wonderful new whale regulations. But what myself and other hard working fishermen of the state of Maine want to know is the ecological impact associated with the harmonics produced from the turbine blades and what it does to marine life such as the endangered right whale, grey and harbor seals, and porpoises. These marine animals rely on high and low frequency sounds to communicate to one another and depending on the blade speed of the turbine, windmills could very well mess up their conversations. How does it seem reasonable to try and regulate a fishery into extinction to save a whale species and replace said industry with windmills which could very well have an higher impact on the whale species.

If this country is in such a rush for green energy then why aren't we spend more time and resources into nuclear and hydro power? Both when operated correctly are very clean and ecological friendly energy sources. The largest power plant in the United States is located in Washington state and is a hydro dam called Grand Coulee Dam. With a megawatt output of 6,809 megawatts it is the worlds 7th largest hydro dam. The dam generates enough energy to power 4.2 million homes for a Development of Offshore Windmills in the gulf of Maine will cause economic downfall for every family and business directly related to the marine fisheries as well as business indirectly related to the fisheries. On paper windmills look like a good machine to produce energy for our countries ever growing electrical grid but there are many reasons to why it isn't. For example, this past spring Texas had a massive winter storm that left many windmills frozen as well as other power plants. The windmills experienced frozen blades and there was not enough energy on the electrical grid to utilize the de-icers. Which left thousands of people and businesses in the dark. IF offshore windmill sites are placed in the GOM we will without a doubt witness the same thing.

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Offshore wind had an astronomical startup cost compared to onshore wind. The average wind turbine costs 2 million dollars per megawatt of rated capacity. The windmills at block island cost around 10 million per megawatt of rated capacity. Combine this with increased strain caused by the waves and marine elements, aka higher repair costs and a shorter lifespan and you get a program that is unaffordable for the average consumer.

Alternate forms of renewable energy operate much more efficiently then wind power. Nuclear plants operate around 93% efficient and hydro electric is around 42%, while wind barely manages 35% efficiency.

I hope you take the time to read my comment and the many other comments in support for LD 101 and think about both the economical and ecological impact associated with offshore wind before you cast your vote. The state has everything to lose and the companies building the sites and operating them got everything to gain and will not hire or put enough money back into the state's economy to cover what is lost from the fishing industries affected.