

Mott Feibusch  
PO Box 352  
Monhegan Island, Maine 04852

Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology  
Jordan Merrifield, Clerk  
Cross Building Room 211  
[EUT@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:EUT@legislature.maine.gov)

**RE: LD 1619, SP512 An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters**

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Energy, Utility and Technology Committee,

My name is Mott Feibusch, and I am a resident of Monhegan Island. This is the third time I am submitting testimony in front of this committee regarding Offshore Wind Energy. I have formerly served on the Monhegan Energy Task Force, and our Community Benefits Advisory Committee, both formed in response to the then Maine Aqua Ventus Project and the designation of the Wind Energy Research Center. I have also formerly chaired the Board of Assessors for Monhegan Plantation and am currently one of the operators of the Monhegan Plantation Power District. I am speaking for myself today.

I am writing in favor of the moratorium on wind power development in state waters for 10 years. For the reasons stated in this bill, I encourage the committee to amend this legislation by removing the exemption for the wind energy demonstration project that is proposed for location in the Maine Offshore Wind Energy Research Center designated by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Title 12, section 1868. This is located within 3 miles of Monhegan Island, a year-round community with a vibrant tourist industry sought out for its solitude, rugged landscapes, and dare I say, quaint charm. It is unfair to not consider this island along with the rest of the coast of Maine in this moratorium for the many reasons stated in this bill.

If this bill were to exist 3 years ago, I believe the outcome would include Monhegan before a long-term power purchase agreement was signed. There was a bill that came before the legislature in 2017, An Act To Protect Monhegan, that I submitted testimony against. We were in the middle of a negotiation for a Community Benefits Package then with Maine Aqua Ventus and the bill was premature and poorly written. In the years since, I have a new perspective and after serving this community throughout these proceedings, I can say from a personal point of view that our community is ill-equipped to host a project of this scale. With strong differences of opinion in such a small community, something we are accustomed to, the line in the sand has been the New England Aqua Ventus project. With a community walking on eggshells, and with the new proposed array 20 or 30 miles off the coast, I see an opportunity for Monhegan to be

relieved of the sole duty of carrying the offshore wind industry in Maine, which was the reality at the time of the Community Benefit Agreement and the Power Purchase Agreement. I was at odds with trying to support offshore wind and renewable energy in the state when there was no other proposed projects and trying to support the best interest of our community, and the states at large.

The benefit of this one turbine project and associated infrastructure to the state does not add up. New England Aqua Ventus has told our community that it is harder, and more expensive to get just one turbine. Continuing to pursue this single turbine project when there is a larger proposed array that will generate greater benefit to the state and the stakeholders does not make sense. I am in support of offshore wind energy, but where it makes sense, as stated in this proposed legislation and in a way that makes sense where you have greater generating capacities and one route for the power transmission to the rest of the state. The environmental impacts, and extra work that must go into two cable routes, one with significantly less capacity than the other just doesn't make sense. I understand that the Long-Term Power Purchase Agreement for New England Aqua Ventus has been approved, but I am not sure why this one contract should stand when the rest of the state gets to breath a sigh of relief. Removing the exemption for the Wind Energy Research Center that is designated in Monhegan's waters can be seen as a compromise between [LD 101, HP0067](#) An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development and this bill.

I am a member of a small community. We have never had a true seat at the table. The legislature decided for us where the Offshore Wind Energy Research Center would be established with little local input from Monhegan. The legislature and the Governor has controlled the shots in regards to what is happening in our waters with little input from the community. We negotiated a benefits package in the form of a fund option to, from my perspective, protect ourselves and continue to invest in our own community driven energy independence, and at least say we got something for the 10+ years we have already been dealing with now New England Aqua Ventus. Monhegan will not receive any power from this project, and the benefit to the rest of the state will circumvent Monhegan entirely. New England Aqua Ventus have worn out their welcome. Their ability to communicate with this community is severely lacking, and this continued history of poor communication will not lead to a symbiotic relationship between the Monhegan community and New England Aqua Ventus in the future.

Respectfully,

Mott Feibusch

Monhegan Island

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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