



Maine Municipal
Association

60 COMMUNITY DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-9486
(207) 623-8428
www.memun.org

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition of

LD 101 – *An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development*
May 4, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my name is Neal Goldberg, and I am providing testimony in opposition of LD 101 on behalf of MMA's Legislative Policy Committee.

Municipal officials do not advise the complete prohibition of offshore wind energy development. While these types of projects deserve caution when developing, especially at first, there are many potential benefits to offshore wind energy generation.

Governor Mills and President Biden both see offshore wind as a potential area for job creation and economic development, a source of clean energy to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change impacts, and a valuable improvement to outdated electricity grids.

Certain concerns regarding the effects of offshore wind turbines on marine resource harvests should be investigated. The value of offshore wind to utility customers and regional economies should be weighed against the impact to individuals reliant on the healthy ocean resources. However, the state should thoroughly discuss the impacts of an outright prohibition that might be difficult to reverse when offshore wind energy is finally developed with non-intrusive methods. The bill further prevents successful deployment of offshore wind by even prohibiting pilot projects.

The Association also objects to the proposed state preemption of municipal planning decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.