



Maine Municipal Association

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Provisional Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1619 – *An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters*
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 provisional testimony neither for nor against LD 1619 on behalf of MMA. Amended testimony will be provided if the comments offered today do not align with the Legislative Policy Committee's official position.

If a pause on offshore wind energy projects is necessary, this bill is the right combination of precaution and exploration. The moratorium, as suggested by the Governor Mills, protects Maine from the unknown consequences of offshore wind energy development until stakeholder groups from multiple industries can convene to deliberate the best framework for constructing and operating these projects in the future.

Municipalities see offshore wind energy as an opportunity for job creation and economic development since extensive infrastructure and a skilled labor force are required to support a productive array of turbines and windmills. Coastal communities and engineering and construction careers are expected to experience a period of significant growth.

The bill's moratorium ensures this growth does not come at the expense of Maine's heritage industries. Communities dependent on marine resource harvests are worried offshore wind energy projects will interfere with fish harvests. In the interim, this bill allows for the continuation of at least one innovative offshore wind energy project that is predicted to have no environmental or marine resource impacts.

The 10-year pause in offshore wind energy is a necessary evil. Communities should not rush into the monumental undertaking of construction and installing offshore wind arrays without doing all of their due diligence. Meanwhile the state should make the necessary investment in infrastructure and workforce development so that it is ready to capitalize when the moratorium expires.