

Cecily Havener
Resident

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of LD101 and opposition to LD1619.

My husband is a fifth-generation lobsterman. In fact, his maritime genealogy goes much further. His English ancestors settled in the coastal village we reside in when Maine was Massachusetts. The ocean is in his blood, as is true of most men and women who live and work the waters of coastal Maine.

Much like an historic farm, whose fields and soil have been worked by generations of the same family, these fishermen carry a deep appreciation for, and knowledge of their fishing grounds. A farmer knows every tree and hill of his property, the quality of the soil, which species are beneficial and how to maximize yield. The lobsterman is the same. He knows the rocky bottom he has spent hours crossing, knows the impact of the tide and the wind on his gear, understands the effect of seasons and temperature on his catch. An innate knowledge gained from thousands of hours observing the sea, coupled with the powerlessness routinely felt at industry changes beyond their control, has taught fishermen and women to recognize a threat when they see one. They may not possess convincing scientific data, but they know the decision-makers don't have it either.

Lobstermen are supposed to believe the 700-foot metal windmills will not disturb ocean habitat or species. They are told wind power will save the Gulf of Maine from global warming and the disappearance of their beloved *Homarus Americanus* as diesel-guzzling survey ships criss-cross those same waters. Lobstermen question how "green" wind energy can possibly be, considering a mill's manufacture, construction, placement, maintenance, potentially few productive years, and disposal. They wonder if the net benefit is worthy of the carbon-emissions produced. They are told it will be an economic boon to the state and provide countless jobs. Lobstermen understand those jobs come at the expense of their own, in an industry which earned \$400 million in 2020.

Besides the uncertainty of the windmill's impact to ocean life is the question of the real estate itself. Is it fair or prudent to lease valuable underwater bottom to a foreign business for decades at a time? Isn't the Maine lobsterman actually part-owner in a shared and valuable American resource? Shouldn't we acknowledge and honor their heritage of ocean stewardship? They are, after all, the historical observers and keepers of this "land".

Consider again the farmer. Imagine the government takes his fields to construct a "clean energy" windmill array, tells him he can farm elsewhere and this endeavor will in fact benefit all farmers, everywhere. Wouldn't he protest to protect his livelihood? Ask for demonstrable proof? Wouldn't he elicit the support of his neighbors and friends who enjoy partaking in his harvest?

We respectfully request a reconsideration of the windmill array off the shores of Monhegan Island, Maine, as well as time to collaborate with industry leaders, establish dialogue and discuss evidence before a decision is reached.

Thank you,
Cecily Havener