

February 22, 2020

Dear committee members,

We are writing this on behalf of the members of the Zone C Lobster Council. Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, we have been unable to hold an official meeting to call a vote on our support of LD 101. This letter represents the support of the undersigned representatives of the Council in our support of LD 101 "an act to prohibit offshore wind development."

We strongly believe that any offshore wind infrastructure in the waters off the coast of Maine would be detrimental to our way of life. The Maine lobster industry is already under severe pressure on multiple fronts: pending whale regulations that are calling for a 98% reduction of our current business model by 2030, an uncertain economy as we claw our way out from the pandemic, and now offshore wind.

The proposed wind developments would eliminate thousands of acres of productive fishing bottom to Maine's lobster fishing fleet, resulting in dire economic consequences to an industry that is already under severe threat. The turbines will also be a serious hazard to navigation for fishermen and pleasure boats alike.

We strongly believe that any offshore wind development on the coast of Maine could be a death blow to our industry and our way of life.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob Thompson, chair


Sherman Hutchins II, vice-chair

Members:

David Farr
James Marsh
Glenn Billings
Richard Larrabee, Sr
Wesley Gove
John McCarthy
Daniel MacDonald
Eugene Lyimburner