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Testimony on LD 1619, “An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine’s Territorial Waters”

Rep. Berry and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee: I’m Sen. Mark Lawrence, and I represent the southern-most part of York County.

I am here today to introduce LD 1619, “An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine’s Territorial Waters.”

This bill puts a 10-year moratorium on any construction or operating of an offshore wind project in Maine’s submerged lands or territorial waters. I’ve worked closely with the Governor’s Energy Office to develop this bill, and we want to heed concerns from the fishing industry while also acknowledging the opportunity to lead the nation in floating wind technology.

L.D. 1619 strikes the right balance of supporting offshore wind and the benefits that come with it. It does this by allowing federal projects to be built and deployed from our port and that the energy can come to our coast to help the state meet climate/clean energy targets, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and realize economic benefits of projects in the Gulf of Maine.

This moratorium would not impact the UMaine one turbine project off of Monhegan Island and would only apply to new offshore wind projects in state waters.

Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.