

Glen Libby
Port Clyde Fresh Catch

Senator Lawrence
Representative Berry
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD101

My Name Is Glen Libby, I have been involved in the fishing business in Maine my entire life. I have participated in a variety of fisheries here in Maine for over 50 years. I am a Founding member of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association and served as chairman for several years.

I have served on the New England Fisheries Management Council, and the Maine Marine Resources Advisory Council.

I am currently President and Manager of Port Clyde Fresh Catch, a seafood marketing and processing coop in Port Clyde Maine.

I fully support LD101, offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine will permanently alter the marine ecosystem and has the potential to severely damage our marine economy that has supported our fishing communities for hundreds of years.

While its true that one turbine or twelve turbines will not be a huge disruption to our fisheries one only has to look what has happened around the world to see that this is just a first step by these multinational corporations toward a much larger installation of hundreds if not thousands of turbines.

The carbon footprint created by construction and maintenance of these installations will take approximately 50 years to mitigate . Given that the 20-25 year projected lifespan of the structures is typically reduced to 15 years based on experience with these things in Europe, the result will be an increase in carbon pollution.

Placing your electrical generating capacity in the harsh marine environment will not make us more secure when it comes to energy production. Consider that all ocean going vessels, that are designed to be in the ocean, have very high maintenance costs due to the marine environment.

Our fishing communities support a large part of our tourist economy where people come from near and far to enjoy some of the highest quality seafood on earth. The Gulf of Maine is an incredibly productive environment for harvesting sustainably managed seafood.

In 1976 the United States kicked foreign fleets out of our waters and established the 200 mile territorial limit to protect our fisheries in recognition of the importance of seafood as part of our coastal economy and food security. Now we are proposing letting the foreign fleets back in as wind developers and excluding our own fishermen. This is a huge paradigm shift and not in a good way. Do we really want to take a chance of damaging this highly productive ecosystem for a short lived and incredibly expensive electricity source?

Electricity form offshore wind , based on European data, is 3 times as expensive as land based generating sources. Our land based infrastructure must be maintained in tandem with the offshore turbines for periods when the wind does not blow hard enough or blows too much. Light wind equals not enough power, too much wind equals turbine shutdown to avoid damage. And to reiterate, offshore wind will do nothing to prevent climate change.

Off shore wind, even on a small scale will disrupt fisheries and kill any seabirds that happen to stray into the blades. It has taken decades to restore the puffin population on egg rock in Muscongus bay. The Monhegan turbine only a few miles from egg rock and is directly in the flyway for puffin and many other seabird migrations. Time will tell what the results are but I am afraid it will not be good for these species.

In summary, in my estimation, there is nothing good about installing offshore wind turbines in our fishing grounds. LD101 will send a message to those outside of Maine, BOEM and the folks in DC that Maine rejects this idea and supports alternative energy that actually fits the definition of clean energy without wrecking an important part of our national economy. We can lead in this regard.

Consider this, those lobbying for these projects are looking to make a fortune off the

backs of US taxpayers and electricity rate payers. They have share holders and are looking to opportunities to meet those obligations, they are not altruistic and care more about the bottom line than the environment. They certainly do not care about the Marine economy of The State of Maine. They see a section of ocean that has not been exploited yet.

Maine fishing communities are fighting for their lives. They have an intimate understanding of the ocean areas that they fish and instinctively know that this is wrong on many levels. They do need or want government subsidies, they want to leave the ocean environment that they depend on in a healthy state so their descendants can enjoy the same opportunities that they have.

The difference between the two positions are striking, I pray that you will carefully consider my comments and make the right decision for our state and its people for now and into the future.

Respectfully submitted