



## Maine Conservation Voters

*Inform. Vote. Protect.*

Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters  
“An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development”  
Before the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee  
May 4th, 2021

Good Afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee.

My name is Kathleen Meil, Director of Policy & Partnerships at Maine Conservation Voters. MCV is a statewide environmental advocacy organization that represents more than 8500 members and supporters dedicated to protecting Maine’s environment and our democracy by making conservation, climate, equity, and voting rights political priorities. We support policies that keep Maine on a path to a just transition to a clean energy future.

Today that means opposing LD 101, the proposed prohibition on offshore wind energy development.

I’ll highlight just two of the many compelling reasons to oppose this blanket, permanent ban on one of our state’s most exciting economic, environmental, and community development opportunities:

First, it is our contention that the Maine Legislature should not be in the business of killing the opportunity to create thousands of good, union jobs right here in Maine. Offshore wind technology will support hundreds of good-paying jobs for Maine’s labor force now, as we plan, engineer, construct, and operate the floating offshore wind research array, and thousands over the next couple of decades. As there is room in the 36,000 square mile Gulf of Maine for a wide variety of uses, these new clean energy jobs can coexist with heritage fishing jobs -- and there is ample opportunity for the people of Maine to benefit from both.

Second, Maine's new Climate Action Plan challenges us rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ramp up clean energy production, and decarbonize our economy. We simply cannot achieve the goals set forth in the Climate Action Plan without offshore wind and a future where we do not meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan truly is too bleak to consider. We must use every tool in the toolbox to rise to the challenge.

Maine Conservation Voters prefers the Mills' administration's wise approach towards offshore wind and we urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 101.