



Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters

“An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters”

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 supporting LD 1619, the proposed moratorium on offshore wind projects in Maine’s territorial waters.

While it may, at first glance, seem out of character for an environmental advocacy organization to support any sort of moratorium for one of the most exciting clean energy opportunities in front of Maine today, we do so *because* of our commitment to a just transition to a clean energy future.

With approximately 75% of Maine’s lobster population being landed in Maine’s territorial waters, we see this moratorium as evidence of the Mills’ administration commitment to standing up an offshore wind industry the *right* way for the people of Maine. We admire the Administration’s stakeholder engagement and their prudent approach to this exciting opportunity for the state.

We do want to underscore one piece of the proposed legislation for the record, as we believe it cannot be reiterated enough. §3405(2) states that “[n]othing in this subsection may be construed as limiting any regulatory approval of or the issuance of any lease or grant of any easement or other real property interest for utility cables, transmission lines or portside infrastructure that may support offshore wind energy generation.”

A key component of any offshore wind project are the jacketed, or buried, transmission lines that connect the energy generating turbines to the grid. This legislation *does not* and *should not* apply to any regulatory approval for transmission lines or portside infrastructure that may be connected to or support offshore wind energy generation.

Maine Conservation Voters applauds the Mills’ administration’s wise approach towards offshore wind and we urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1619.