

Ira Miller
Tenants Harbor

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

I am writing to you today in support of L.D. 101 an act to prohibit all offshore wind developments Maine State waters, including the Monhegan project. As a lifelong fisherman with over forty years of experience fishing across the entire expanse of the Gulf of Maine I feel that we are moving in the wrong direction by trying to harness wind energy when there are alternatives that are available that can accomplish the same outcome or better. I as a fisherman and a person whom values nature and believe that we need to do everything we can to protect our environment to the best of our ability. As we all know every choice we make for power generation will create an impact, but I believe better choices are available now that create less impact. Industrializing the Gulf of Maine in any way in my view is extremely short sighted, it seems as though we are rushing to get this done because there is a sense of a huge financial windfall that's being promoted by our government as well as the developers whom stand to gain the most from a project like this. I would like to state that I would support these projects if I felt it was truly in the best interest of the people of the State of Maine and all of New England and I feel many other fishermen would too. But the negatives far out weigh the positives in this case especially given we have other choices to arrive at the same outcome. I beg you to think long and hard regarding allowing offshore wind to have a platform to move forward here in this State as well as in New England. We should value the food source that cannot be replaced that the Gulf of Maine has represented since before the birth of our nation over the generation of power and all the unknowns that come with it. We know that we can live without the power in the very worst case scenario, but not without food and water. I believe that by making the right choice here and investing the money that's being invested in wind power that's slated for the Gulf of Maine we can achieve a much better fit for the environment and all of us that depend on it. Make no mistake, I can tell you it's a fact that the Gulf of Maine is and has been fully utilized for many years you cannot go anywhere there that doesn't displace a historic user of that area. Another thing that I can tell you is that we won't even begin to know the full effects that offshore wind will have for many years to come if ever. It's hard enough to project environmental impacts when things of this magnitude are created on land and virtually impossible to do in the ocean. I believe the carbon footprint by implementing a project that has the ability to grow in a scale that is currently being discussed will outweigh any perceived gains and should not be considered. I believe if we as a State and work to convince all states that border the Gulf of Maine to resist the temptation to chase the money being offered, we will be hailed as leaders whom had enough foresight and integrity not to just let the short term gains being offered sway us. Thank you for your time to consider my comments, sincerely Ira Miller