

Testimony of John Napolitano on behalf of the United Association Local 716 State of Maine

In support of L.D. 1619, *An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters*

And

**In opposition to L.D. 101, *An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development*
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology**

May 4, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology; I am John Napolitano, here today to speak on behalf of the United Association Local 716 State of Maine, which includes plumbers, pipefitters and HVAC technicians; I'm also the Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents sixteen trade affiliates with 5,000 members in Maine.

The UA Local 716 and the Maine State Building Building and Construction Trades Council speaks today in strong opposition to L.D. 101, which proposes to ban all offshore wind development in Maine waters and would ban any permits for any supporting infrastructure for offshore wind in federal waters. The bill is simply a blunderbuss aimed at a potential Maine industry. It will not stop development of offshore wind in federal waters. All it can do is ensure that Maine workers and Maine businesses are not able to benefit in development of the Gulf of Maine. It moves jobs out of Maine and sends them to New Hampshire and Massachusetts. It denies opportunity to this and the next generation of Maine's construction workers – sending our children to work out of state for no good reason. It won't even do a good job protecting Maine's lobster industry as it delivers their fate to federal officials and out-of-state bureaucrats. No matter who is governor of Maine over the next 10 years, that person will do a better job balancing Maine's interests and protecting Maine jobs than will the governors of New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

We know offshore wind is good for workers and good for the businesses where they work. Our union members in other states have already begun to benefit from the early development of the more than 30,000 MW of offshore wind in development in states like Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and even Rhode Island. The offshore wind industry is poised to be the biggest infrastructure build in the United States since the development of the Gulf of Mexico.

We support L.D. 1619 as a carefully thought out approach to protecting Maine's territorial waters while continuing to have Maine lead on offshore wind development in federal waters. If Maine leads, we can have confidence that any development will take full account of a Maine's fishing industry while capturing many jobs and economic benefits of Maine workers.