



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

May 4, 2021

Re: L.D 101 An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development

Dear Committee Chairs Lawrence and Berry, and members of the Committee On Energy, Utilities and Technology,

Thank you for convening this hearing. The BlueGreen Alliance is a partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations both nationally and throughout the state of Maine. On behalf of my organization, our partners, and the millions of members and supporters they represent, I respectfully submit comments against L.D 101.

If this legislation moves forward, it will eliminate a once in a lifetime possibility for Mainers to take advantage of tremendous economic opportunity. Developing a responsible approach for renewable energy projects will create local jobs while moving us towards the clean energy future needed to combat climate change.

If this legislation passes, we also eliminate the possibility of an in-state supply chain. The economic welfare of the people of Maine are inseparably linked to the preservation and development of domestic manufacturing. As the Offshore Wind industry grows, sourcing components domestically represents a significant opportunity to help revitalize manufacturing. The Special Initiative for Offshore Wind's recent white paper predicts an almost \$70 billion build out of U.S. offshore wind supply chain by calculating growth in a number of sectors, which include wind turbines and towers; turbine and substation foundations; upland, export, and array cables; onshore and offshore substations; and marine support, insurance, and project management.

Developing any new industry is never perfect, and comes with challenges that must be collaboratively addressed. For this reason we urge the State of Maine to develop a robust, sustainable and equitable industry that protects our valuable marine and coastal resources and maximizes job creation and economic benefits. Key components of this effort should address environmental protection, high-quality employment and work product, and equity. This will ensure we maximize the local economic benefits and climate benefits of launching this new clean energy industry. For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Newberry NorthEast Program Manager, BlueGreen Alliance