Lucinda Nieuwkerk
Kennebunk

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Resident

Senator Lawrence
Representative Berry
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on LD 101

I have dona a lot of research on Offshore Wind Development since the announcement from Governor Mills. I have also done a lot of research on the value of our fishing industry in Maine.
Here are 9 reasons to not support offshore wind.

1. Offshore wind has the most expensive capitol costs of all electricity generation:
Offshore wind $6500 per KW
Onshore wind $1600 per KW
Solar $1060-$1800 per KW
Gas/oil $1000 per KW
2. The only operational windfarm in the United States is Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island (although it is not operational at this time). Block Island Wind has a 20 year contract with the Rhode Island Public Utilty Commission to charge rate payers .24 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) the first year. The rate increases 3.5% every year there after. On the 20th year rate payers will pay .46 cents per kWh In comparison, my electric bill shows I pay .08 cents per kWh from my local electric company, Kennebunk Light and Power District.
The Block Island Wind rate is 3 times higher than mine the first year. If this is the rate we will be charged in Maine for electricity if we have an offshore wind farm then my monthly bill will go from $100 a month to $300 a month for the first year and it will go to $600 a month by the 20th year.
3. Kennebunk Light and Power District buys electricity from a 6 acre solar array in Kennebunk at a rate of .088 cents per kWh. In 2020, this solar array produced 3886 MWh and it supplied electricity to the equivalent of 430 homes. There are 3240 homes in Kennebunk. At this rate, it would take 44 acres of solar array to supply electricity to every home in Kennebunk with renewable energy.
In comparison, the proposed offshore wind array in the Gulf of Maine will be 16 square miles equaling 10,240 acres of ocean in which hundreds of people make a living and produce millions of pounds of food.
4. In 2019, total seafood landings in the State of Maine was #216,742,426 pounds. Which had a value of $673,910,558. This is 673 million dollars back to the harvester. There is a 'job revenue multiplier' for harvested seafood. This multiplier is the amount of money that is made by other businesses further up the seafood chain. There have been numerous studies on how much more revenue is made from harvesting seafood. The most recent one I have found was done by NOAA in 2016. This study said the revenue multiplier for seafood is 4.26. This means for every dollar of seafood landed you multiply it by 4.26 this includes harvester, fish dealer, fish processor, truck driver, bait dealer, fish market, mechanics, boat builders, fishing supply stores, lobster trap companies, restaurants, grocery stores etc. This number is $2,870,858,977 in total job revenues that the fishing industry brought to the State of Maine in 2019. These are GOOD PAYING JOBS. In my opinion, the Governor, and law makers should be protecting this valuable resource, not trading it for frivolous, expensive electricity.
5. Offshore Windfarms have to be sited on gravelly/muddy/sandy bottom type which is in direct competition with the habitat of shellfish/lobster/ groundfish/ marine mammals.
The area that the Governor's Office of Energy has pinpointed to place the 12 turbine array is THE fishiest bottom closest to the shore in Southern Maine. It is, hands down, the most heavily fished area for small vessels (25 ft to 45 ft). These Vessels include groundfish boats, lobster boats, charter boats, whale watch boats, anglers, tuna fishing boats and pleasure crafts.
6. If you look at the BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) webpage, you can see once one offshore lease is permitted, it opens the floodgates for more leases. Once the Block Island Wind Farm was approved by BOEM, they approved 7 more offshore wind leases for a total of 931,154 acres of ocean off of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island coast that can no longer be fished. It is one windfarm on top of another.
The United States east coast has 1,701,985 acres of offshore wind leases.
7. I have done a lot of research to find these facts. However, it is very difficult to find any facts about how much electricity is actually produced annually from any windfarm in the world. Energy companies are quick to say how much 'potential' a windfarm has, ie; MW's or GW's, but that is not a measurement of energy produced. There doesn't seem to be very much information on how many kilowatt hours or mega watt hours windfarms produce annually. When Governor Mill's Office of Energy was asked what the capitol costs of the offshore

research array are going to be, they said they didn't know. When asked what rate per kIlowatt hour the people of Maine are going be asked to pay, they said they didn't know.
I have a hard time believing any energy company proposing a project of this magnitude wouldn't know the capitol costs of their investment, AND the return of that investment.
Where is the transparency from the Governors Energy Office?
I think before a project of this magnitude is approved, law makers and rate payers should know what the capitol cost is going to be and what the rate per kWh is going to be contracted at. The people of Maine are going to bear the burden of the cost of this offshore research wind array.
Why should we pay .24 cents, or .46 cents per kWh for expensive offshore wind if we can pay .08 or .09 cents per kWh from an onshore solar array? Where is this discussion?
In conclusion, do we want to trade a sustainable food source for expensive electricity? Do we want to risk 2.8 billion dollars in annual seafood revenues? Is the offshore wind array going to put 210 million pounds of food on people's tables? Is it going to bring 2.8 billion in job revenues to the State? Is it going to supply cheap electricity?
Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion, Lucinda Nieuwkerk