

Lucinda Nieuwkerk
Kennebunk Resident

9 reasons to support LD 101

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 \$1600 per KW
2. The only operational offshore wind farm in the United States is Block Island Wind in Rhode Island.
The Rhode Island Public Utility Commission has a 20 year contract with Block Island Wind. Rate payers paid .24 cents per kilowatt hour(kWh) the first year. The rate goes up 3.5% every year for 20 years. The 20th year rate payers will be paying .46 cents per kWh.
In comparison, my electric bill shows I pay a rate of .08 cents per kWh from my local electric company, Kennebunk Light and Power District. Block Island wind is charging 3 times the rate I pay. If this is the rate I will be charged for electricity generated by offshore wind my bill will go from \$100 to \$300 a month for the first year, and it will be \$600 a month for the twentieth year.
3. In 2020, Kennebunk Light and Power District bought electricity from a 6 acre solar array owned by Next Era Energy, located in Kennebunk at a rate of .088 cents per kWh. This 6 acre solar array produced 3,886 MWh in 2020 which is the equivalent of electricity used by 430 homes. There are 3240 homes in Kennebunk. At this rate, it would take 44 acres of solar array to produce enough electricity for every home in Kennebunk.
In comparison, the proposed offshore 'research' array in the Gulf of Maine is 16 square miles equaling 10,240 acres of an ocean ecosystem in which hundreds of Maine harvesters make their living.
4. In 2019, total seafood landings in the State of Maine was 216,742,426 pounds. 216 MILLION POUNDS OF SEAFOOD. Which had a value of \$673,910,558. This 673 MILLION Dollars is the revenue back to the harvester. There is a 'job revenue multiplier' for harvested seafood. This 'multiplier' is the amount of money that other businesses make on the seafood that harvesters land. There have been numerous studies on how much money is made further up the seafood supply chain. The

most recent study I found was done in 2016 by NOAA. It found the jobs multiplier to be 4.26. This means for every dollar of seafood landed you multiply it by 4.26 and this includes harvester, fish processor, fish markets, fish dealers, restaurants, truck drivers, grocery stores etc. That number is \$2,870,858,977.

In short,

#216 million pounds of landed seafood in Maine 2019.

\$673 million dollars back to the harvester in Maine 2019.

\$2.87 billion dollars in total job revenues for the State of Maine in 2019.

These are GOOD PAYING JOBS.

5. Wind farms have to be placed on gravelly/muddy/sandy bottom which is in direct competition with the bottom type for shellfish/fish/marine mammal habitat/ecosystems.
6. The area that the Governors Energy Office has chosen to place the 12 turbine research wind array is the fishiest piece of bottom that is closest to shore in southern Maine. It is, hands down, the most heavily fished area for small vessels (25 ft to 50 ft). These vessels include lobster boats, ground fish boats, herring boats, tuna fishing boats, Whale Watch boats, Charter fishing boats and pleasure crafts.
7. If you look at the BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) website page you can see that once one offshore lease is permitted, it opens the door for more leases.
After the Block Island Wind Farm was approved, BOEM approved 7 more offshore wind leases, totaling 931,154 acres of ocean off of Massachusetts/Rhode Island coast. This million acres of ocean can no longer be fished. It is one wind farm lease on top of another. Is that what we want off the Maine coast?
8. Every inch of ocean from the coast of Maine out to the Hague Line is deemed 'Critical Right Whale Habitat' by NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service. Every inch.
9. I have done a lot of research to find these facts. However, one fact I could not find was how much electricity has been generated by any wind farm, onshore or offshore. There don't seem to be any facts on the internet that say how many kilowatt hours (kWh) or megawatt hours (MWH) have been produced annually for any wind farm in the world. I can easily find what the POTENTIAL of a wind farm is, ie: how many MW's or GW's the arrays have the 'potential' for. This is NOT a measure of what they ACTUALLY produce.

In comparison, Todd Shea, the manager of Kennebunk Light and Power District, was completely transparent on how many Megawatt

hours were produced annually (3886 MWH) and what the cost was per kWh (.088 cents) for the Kennebunk solar array. He also told me the cost of the 6 acre solar array was 4 million dollars.

When Governor Mills Office of Energy has been less than transparent. When the Office of Energy was asked what is the capitol cost of this proposed offshore floating research array in the Gulf of Maine? They said they didn't know. When they were asked what the rate per kilowatt hour was going to be set at, they said they didn't know.

I think before a project of this magnitude is approved by the state legislature people should know what the capitol cost is and what the rate per kilowatt is going to be. The people who use this electricity are going to bear the burden of this cost.

Why should we pay 3 times more, or even 6 times more (.24 -.46 cents per kWh) for offshore wind electricity if we can pay .08 per kilowatt hour for onshore solar array electricity. Where is this discussion?

In conclusion, do we want to trade a sustainable food source for expensive electricity? Do we want to risk 216 million pounds of food and \$2.8 billion dollars in annual seafood job revenues in Maine for VERY EXPENSIVE electric rates?

Sincerely,

Lucinda Nieuwkerk

Sources:

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4. Maine.gov DMR Commercial Landings 2019.
4. <https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/noaa-report.pdf>. NOAA study on multiplier for harvested seafood. Page 18 first paragraph.
7. boem.gov Massachusetts activities
8. NOAA.gov critical right whale habitat