

Virginia Olsen  
Stonington

Senator Mike Lawrence, Representative Seth Berry and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology committee,  
my name is Virginia Olsen I'm a lobsterman from Stonington. I sit on the executive board for Local 207, Lobster 207, and I work in District 4 office. We are in support of LD # 101 An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development. We are not opposed to renewable energy. We are just not willing to risk a \$1.5 billion dollar industry on experimental energy in the Gulf of Maine when we believe Maine's energy needs can be achieved on land at a much cheaper rate to the taxpayer. Emerging from a pandemic into the richest energy per kw without a completed road map to tell us if we should be pausing or rushing ahead sure feels like the cart is in front of the horse. Every day we are hearing of new technology, we must be able to find an option that is truly green; offshore wind just is not. You can't move away from fossil fuels with turbines- you need crude oil in large quantities for construction of all the pieces to assemble a turbine, gearboxes, wire and transmission cables to shore all require smelting, you can't do this another way. We are told how successful offshore wind is over seas, yet their fishermen don't agree. I am on ROSA & RODA (Responsible offshore science/ development alliance) Fishermen off Block Island have experienced a 50% reduction in their crab fishery. Not something we could sustain here in the lobster fishery. We are Repeatedly told how we can fish around the cables that it's safe yet we see articles pop up like Orsted's cable problem in the UK after 5 short years they have chaffing that will need costly repairs. Who pays for this the company or ratepayers? Each story ends the same many big promises but short on delivery. Difference is we don't require the amount of energy consumption they do, nor do we have the carbon footprint they have. We have so many questions but the only answers we get are "I don't know" and "That's a great question and the exact reason we need the research array." I can tell you with 100% certainty that is not how Maine fishermen feel. We don't understand how we can be required to remove endlines for North Atlantic Right Whales but it's ok for floating OSW to add moorings. We don't know the implications vibrations will have on the fragile ocean eco system. What we do know is sonars used for siting causes damage to whales and porpoise. We have very real concerns about what will happen during staging with ship traffic and shipstrikes of the NARW, and in turn what that would mean for fishermen. We certainly are not ready to risk the heritage of future generations so foreign developers can collect quick cash and leave a mess in the Gulf of Maine for the taxpayers to clean up. Let's make sure we invest in truly green energy that puts Maine first not the profits of a selected few.  
Thank you,

Virginia Olsen  
Maine Lobstering Union-Local 207