

**Testimony of Nick Paquet on behalf of International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Local 1253**

**In Opposition to LD 101, *An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development*  
And  
In Support of LD 1619, *An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power  
Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters***

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Nick Paquet, and I am testifying on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1253, in strong opposition to LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development.

IBEW Local 1253 was established in 1946. We have been wiring Maine with pride, integrity, professionalism, craftsmanship, efficiency, and safe throughout the electrical industry. In 1976 our apprenticeship program was founded. Since then, we have trained hundreds of men and women in the electrical industry that meets and exceeds Maine's license examination.

IBEW Local 1253 supports offshore wind and the economic benefits the growth of this industry presents for Maine workers. Our members in other states along the East coast are already seeing the potential for high-paying jobs with good benefits, and Maine should not turn away this chance to be leaders in an industry with increasing demand for green energy infrastructure across the country and around the world. Atlantic states have committed to dozens of gigawatts of wind energy, and New York and New Jersey projects alone are producing approximately 38,000 direct jobs.

LD 101 would be a step backwards for Maine. It would silence Maine's voice in the development and siting of future offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine, it would result in thousands of jobs being created out of state, and it would do nothing to protect Maine fishermen from wind energy projects that would gain approval from the federal government. Maine must fulfill its commitment to offshore wind because it supports a sustainable future for Maine's environment and for its workers.

We support LD 1619 as a rational approach to offshore wind because it protects near-shore waters but ensures that Maine keeps gathering data on offshore wind in order to best inform federal decision making in the future. By proceeding to research how offshore wind can best work in Maine, we can continue to be leaders in this emerging industry.

Thank you

Nick Paquet  
IBEW 1253

Nick Paquet  
Benton

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