



May 4, 2021

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Seth Berry, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in opposition to LD 101, “An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my name is Jeremy Payne and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. MREA members sustainably manufacture electricity from hydro, biomass, wind, tidal, and solar.

MREA testifies in opposition to LD 101 as, with any retroactive approach to clean energy policymaking, it would gravely damage the state’s reputation with investors. More than a decade ago, through the Ocean Energy Task Force (and subsequently the “Ocean Energy Act”), Maine opened its doors to ocean energy investors to invite them here to potentially host their capital and research and development efforts.

Less than one year ago, a joint venture was formed between RWE Renewables and Diamond Generating to partner up in support of the University of Maine’s floating, off-shore wind technology. These two private companies expect to ultimately [invest \\$150 million and create hundreds of jobs](#) during the construction phase of the project.

While it is clear there is a need to balance the development of New England Aqua Ventus, LLC (NEAV), and any other offshore wind developments we may see down the road, with other traditional marine industries, this bill aggressively seeks to halt and destroy all the important progress the state and NEAV have made in the last two years. We are very committed to engaging with other interested stakeholders to ensure the benefits of offshore wind are shared broadly, and applaud the Mills Administration’s efforts on that front.

We respectfully urge the committee to vote ought not to pass on this piece of legislation.¹

¹ All of the views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the positions of each of our members. Since MREA represents a broad spectrum of companies, we anticipate some members may submit comments of their own.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Payne', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy N. Payne
Executive Director