

Good Afternoon, my Name is Grant Provost, I am the Business Agent for Ironworkers Local 7. I rise in opposition to LD 101 An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development. The attempt to stifle the growth of a new green energy technology and market before it even gets underway in Maine is a step backwards not forwards, especially taken in to account it will be one where Maine is a first mover. We have the chance to not only improve our environment but improve our economy while curbing the effects of global warming on our way to a carbon neutral Maine. These are the things we all talk about at the dinner table, things we wish for in our home State of Maine, and the things we want to be able to tell our children's children that we stood up for not tore down. I know we have all heard this line before but it definitely holds salt here; it is way easier to tear down an idea than to see one all the way through especially if it brings about change. I regularly read my son a book about that exact topic. In the book the idea starts as a small thing, others make fun of it and tell the main character to abandon it. By the end of the book the idea is full blown and coming to fruition. On the last page it asks what do you do with an idea....you change the world.

I've spoken in favor of offshore wind numerous times, one of the most important things to highlight is the creation of a just transition from fossil fuel generated power to a carbon neutral electrical grid. The 22 gigawatts of power that is slated in the southern states by 2030 is creating over 38,000 new jobs in just the New York and New Jersey areas. Great paying union jobs where our Brothers and Sisters are going to work in a clean economy. States are putting up funding to transition workers from fossil fuel power generation to Offshore Wind and in doing so are creating the next generation of working class jobs, with high pay and great benefits. States are writing PLA language into RFP's to make sure that this work is done Union or at the Collectively Bargained Wage Rates, this ensures that the benefits of a new technology are felt by those who build the projects not just the developers.

With Floating Offshore Wind Maine has the chance to be first at something incredible. To our south most of the States on the Eastern Seaboard enjoy several miles of continental shelf allowing their wind turbines to go on fixed mono-pile foundations. In Maine we have deep water so ours will have to float. The University of Maine has designed the very first floating concrete hull in the

world, we have the chance at spearheading an entirely new market here in Maine. As we saw with solar the cost will come down and when there is no room on the continental shelf or it becomes more financially feasible the towers will be floating. We have that technology here and it is fully my intention to harness it to create great paying jobs Mainers will be able to benefit from for generations. Please don't take the easy route and let this idea be torn down, kill this bill in committee and let's start the hard work of making Offshore Wind a reality in Maine.

Grant Provost  
Brunswick

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