



Maine State Legislature  
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
May 4, 2021

**Testimony of RENEW Northeast on LD 101**

***An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development***

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry, and members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee, I am Francis Pullaro the Executive Director of RENEW Northeast, Inc. (RENEW).<sup>1</sup> RENEW submits this testimony in strong opposition to this bill to prohibit offshore wind generation proposed for Maine in federal waters as it will preclude Maine from receiving the environmental and economic development benefits from offshore wind development.

The Maine offshore wind generation being developed will help the Maine clean energy industry by creating green jobs and contribute to Maine reaching its renewable energy goals. Offshore wind projects are pivotal for states on the Atlantic Coast to realize their renewable energy development and carbon reduction requirements. At sites located on the Outer Continental Shelf, the Department of Energy estimates offshore wind's technical potential at over 2,000 gigawatts (or double the amount of all existing installed U.S. electricity), 86 gigawatts of which could be developed by 2050. Atlantic Coast states, recognizing the economic and environmental opportunities afforded by the technology, have collectively issued procurement targets for 29 gigawatts of offshore wind. A recent economic development study from American Clean Power (as the former the American Wind Energy Association) reported that offshore wind development off the Atlantic Coast could translate into \$57 billion in direct investment, add \$25 billion in annual economic output and create 83,000 well-paying jobs by 2030, all while stabilizing retail electricity rates and emitting no climate-altering greenhouse gases.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> The comments expressed herein represent the views of RENEW and not necessarily those of any particular member of RENEW. RENEW is a non-profit association uniting the renewable energy industry and environmental advocates whose mission involves coordinating the ideas and resources of its members with the goal of increasing environmentally sustainable energy generation in the Northeast from the region's abundant, indigenous renewable resources. RENEW has focused on highlighting the value of grid-scale resources- specifically offshore and onshore wind and small hydropower- and the benefits of transmission investment to deliver renewable energy to load centers in the Northeast. RENEW members own and/or are developing large-scale wind and hydropower facilities in Maine and across the Northeast. Others are independent transmission developers with proposals for transmission facilities to connect clean energy resources from around the region to load centers.