

Hannah Rackliff
Friendship

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is Hannah Rackliff. I am a resident of Friendship, Maine. My husband is a 5th generation lobsterman from Spruce Head, Maine. My family on my Dad's side have been lobstering and fishing in the Gulf of Maine for 5 generations. My Dad is a lobsterman and a commercial lobster wharf owner in Friendship. My brother is a lobsterman and he harvests lobsters year round in state and federal waters. He harvests lobsters in federal waters during the winter months and a major portion of his income comes from what he harvests in federal waters. Federal waters are fished and they are lucrative, unlike what Governor Mills has portrayed to the public. The lobster industry provides abundantly for us, it has blessed our family. I have spent hundreds of hours on the Gulf of Maine myself. It is a place I care about more than words can express.

My husband attended the University of Maine and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and three minors which include Business, Surveying and Entrepreneurship. I graduated from the University of New England with a degree in Dental Hygiene. My husband and I never considered leaving Maine after graduating from college. We have too much love for mid coast Maine and the slow lifestyle here. My husband continues to harvest lobsters. It is a way of life.

My husband's grandfather, a successful inventor and entrepreneur who was one of the most career driven men I've ever known always told my husband and I will never forget, "You can go live in a city and make a lot of money, or you can stay here and go lobstering and make a good living. I support you if you stay here and live and work in the most beautiful place in the world. I've been all around the world and there is no place more beautiful than the coast of Maine." My husband's career driven grandfather who experienced wealth and experienced success, encouraged and supported my husband to chose the humble, quiet life that mid coast Maine and lobstering provide. People come to Maine to fantasize about the slow life we live. We are the vacation land. The quaint harbors, lobster rolls and views without skyscrapers are what draw vacationers here.

I am writing in favor of the bill LD101 presented by Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham.

I listened in today on the public hearing of LD101. I want to say thank you to all of you for unbiased body language and facial expressions while the public spoke today. I felt that it was professional and it did not go unnoticed by me. I am here to list statements that were spoken today that I stand behind and support. I will also bring up some questions that I have following the comments made by those who oppose LD101. I hope you will ponder these questions I have.

Many do not understand the lobster industry. One speaker today spoke about lobster territory zones. I want to emphasize the importance of understanding this aspect of the lobster industry. If the offshore windmills farms are completed at the scale our Governor desires, entire zones will be lost for Maine lobstermen. This means entire communities will be depressed, jobs lost, and families hurting. If one or two zones are taken over by wind turbine farms, the lobstermen in those zones cannot go fish in another zone. This is not an example of the lobster industry and offshore wind in coexistence.

Another statement made today by Dustin Delano about the size of the anchor chains for each turbine is overwhelming. The area the chains will sweep and destroy is devastating. We assume when the turbines reach their life expectancy of 10-20 years it will be much too expensive to dismantle them. When we agree to let just one turbine into the Gulf of Maine, we will say goodbye to one of the richest ocean habitats in the world, in an area the size of one square mile per turbine. The Gulf of Maine is one of the most biodiverse bodies of water in the world.

I sensed the tone of those in favor of offshore wind to be this, "what we can't see, won't hurt us". They kept saying these farms will be in federal waters where people can't hear them or see them. The habitat in federal waters is just as important to me as it is state waters. I think people have a hard time comprehending the ocean floor, they

can't see it so it tends not to concern them. I've grown up around men and women who know the layout of the ocean floor better than I know the layout of my front yard. I've seen my husband draw topographic maps of the ocean floor by heart as he maps out which ledges and rocks he wants to place his traps. The lobstermen and women care about the ocean floor because it is something they know more than anything else. You are hearing from the lobstermen in large numbers because people from international companies want to come and bulldoze their beloved "land".

One comment today addressed solar farms and land usage. I urge you to consider the ocean floor as a piece of land, the home to marine life. I hope it will allow you to open your mind to a new perspective.

I heard many times today that if LD101 is passed it will not stop wind turbines from entering federal waters and all the jobs will go to Massachusetts or New Hampshire where the cables are landed. This may very well be a scare tactic from those in favor of offshore wind. The hundreds of extra miles of cable would increase the project costs to the point the companies may not follow through. I believe I heard that it costs approximately \$1 million per mile of cable. Secondly, I am not an expert of energy but I would think electricity would weaken and be lost if it had to travel that far underwater, to another state. If LD101 is passed, I do not think we would see the turbines ending up in federal waters and the Gulf of Maine will be protected from this particular risky giant.

I believe it was the CEO of Aquaventus that made the comment that if we pass this bill we are sending a message to investors that Maine is closed for business. As a state where tourism is our number one gig, I think we have sent a message to the world, loud and clear, that we are indeed open for business.

When considering this bill, please remember Matt Gilley's statement that only approximately 1800 square miles of Maine are used for lobstering. The offshore wind companies want to take up between 800-900 square miles of this lobstering ground. What if the offshore wind companies get that ocean bottom and the whole project is a failure? Can you comprehend what 800 square miles looks like? It is massive. We know the life expectancy of windmills are short and no one can seem to come up with the money to fix inland windmills so who will spend millions to fix offshore windmills? If this project comes to life at the scale desired by Governor Mills, what will we do in 20 years when the turbines have run their course? Who has asked that question? So far, no one will answer that question. It is a simple and crucial question. Where is the plan? Are we really going to let businessmen and women who disguise as environmentalists into our oceans without a plan, without answers? Please consider LD101 to slow this down before it is too late.

Do you believe industrializing the Gulf of Maine will save it from warming? The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than any other body of water in the world. It is fragile and I am concerned disrupting the Gulf of Maine at the scale in which offshore wind farms will do, will send this rare, precious place spiraling out of control faster than we could ever stop it.

If any members of this committee have more information about the long term plan that offshore wind companies have for their power plants, please email me. I am interested to know what will be done when they no longer work and if wind mills ever get deconstructed when they are retired.

Thank you for reading my testimony, my concerns and my input.

My name is Hannah Rackliff and I strongly support LD101. I also want it to be known that I OPPOSE LD 1619.

Thank you.

Sincerely,