

May 4, 2021

Sen. Mark Lawrence, Senate Chair  
Rep. Seth Berry, House Chair  
Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology  
c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1619, An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee:

Climate change is an existential threat to coastal communities as we know them. At the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, we support local, state, national, and global climate actions that empower coastal communities to thrive in a warmer world.

In this spirit, we support LD 1619, *"An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters."* This bill allows for a thoughtful, transparent, and inclusive process to determine how, where, and when Maine can benefit from the economic opportunity and climate solution that offshore wind energy presents.

To be absolutely clear: process matters. Climate solutions that don't involve the communities in which they are implemented are not solutions at all. It's critically important that stakeholders representing these interests are involved early in the process of siting and developing any offshore wind project — and that their concerns are explicitly considered in any decision-making process.

We are encouraged that this bill acknowledges the breakneck pace at which offshore wind energy is developing off America's east coast — and that in such haste, important economic drivers and cultural institutions can be overlooked. This legislation gives us time to ensure the many and varied interests associated with Maine's coastal waters are not undermined by the hasty deployment of a rapidly evolving technology.

This moratorium also poses risks. This decision may cede some economic opportunities related to offshore wind energy to other states along the eastern seaboard. On balance, however, we feel LD1619 sends a clear, prudent signal to fishermen, developers, utilities, coastal residents, and federal policy makers at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and elsewhere.

350 Commercial Street  
Portland, ME 04101

tel (207) 772-2321  
fax (207) 772-6855  
[www.gmri.org](http://www.gmri.org)

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Again, process matters. In the decade to come, we have a responsibility to develop this economic opportunity in a thoughtful and inclusive way that respects existing uses and addresses climate change, the biggest long-term threat to our marine economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Reidmiller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. David Reidmiller  
Director, Climate Center