

May 6, 2021

Good afternoon,

My name is Erin Rodin. I live in Cushing, Maine. My husband Tyler is a lobsterman who has been fishing since an early age. My son Levi is starting his lobster fishing career at just 9 years old. My family, as well as my husband's, go back generations in commercial fishing. Fishing is in our roots and our blood. This is who we are.

I'm writing you today, pleading for help! Maine's fishing communities need support! Our voices aren't being heard with our concerns regarding the offshore windmills. I'm writing in hopes our concerns are taken into consideration.

Much like farming and logging, commercial fishing doesn't have the support it deserves. With one of the biggest revenues in Maine why would our Governor want to destroy it? Does she realize the trickle down affect this is going to create?

Boat builders, marine stores, grocery stores, car dealerships, tourism, construction, restaurants; these are just a few examples of businesses that will be drastically impacted.

The Windmill project will be devastating for thousands of livelihoods and also for the sea life. Did you know Eastern Egg Rock is the home to hundreds of puffins? The puffins come to this rock just off of Monhegan to nest and lay their eggs. What about the ocean floor? Maine fishermen have worked hard to keep this industry strong and thriving. What kind of damage is this going to do to the lobster population? What about an oil spill? That would be devastating and take years to recover from.

I find it very hypocritical that all of the blame is being put on the fishermen regarding the right whales, yet a massive cable will be placed on the ocean floor? How much sea life will be crushed? Will sea life survive around these windmills? Why take the chance to ruin something beautiful and delicate as the Gulf of Maine?

Our fishermen aren't the enemy. The ocean is their "office". We spend countless hours on the ocean protecting our industry. We want to preserve it as much as anyone. Most fishermen you talk to support green energy. Everything green has a cost and a negative effect though. One "test" windmill will lead to how many more? Governor Mills wants 850 square miles of our beautiful ocean to be turned into wind farms? It's sad to think of what our ocean could become. We know it in our heart that these massive windmills will be harmful to Maine and federal waters.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Erin Rodin

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