

**Testimony of Jeff Saliba on behalf of Insulators Local 6**

**In Opposition to LD 101, *An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development*  
And  
In Support of LD 1619, *An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power  
Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters***

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Jeff Saliba and I am testifying on behalf of the Insulators Local 6, in strong opposition to LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development.

Insulators Local 6 represents specialists in mechanical insulation, firestopping, and hazardous waste remediation. Our members are throughout New England, with many in Maine who would benefit from the job creation spurred by a Maine offshore wind industry, just as our members in southern New England have benefitted from offshore wind in shallower waters.

Maine has been developing its floating turbine technology and its offshore wind industry for many years, and Maine workers are eager to put their experience to use in making the state a leader in floating turbine production, operation and maintenance. Maine has positioned itself to claim its place at the forefront of this industry; we cannot turn back now.

Passage of LD 101 would signal to others that Maine is rejecting a 21st century approach to energy, and abandoning the strong economy that is developing in southern New England states as the region transitions to renewables. Passage of LD 101 wouldn't keep other interests from pursuing and acquiring leases for offshore wind from the federal government, though; it would only prevent Maine from exerting its influence on the process, including gaining onshore economic benefits like high-paying jobs.

We support LD 1619 because it balances near-shore interests and Maine's interest in researching wind generation in federal waters before commercial scale leases are granted.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.