

John Seiders  
Resident

Dear Committee Members,

I am in support of LD101 "An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Development" and I urge you to consider prohibiting the development of any offshore wind infrastructure, including the installation of cables in the waters off the coast of Maine.

I am concerned that the proposed wind development would eliminate thousands of acres of productive fishing bottom to Maine's lobster fishing fleet, resulting in dire economic consequences to an industry that is already under severe threat.

I am concerned that there is not enough scientific research to fully understand the impacts of a wind turbine platform, not to mention an entire array, on the ecosystems that we work so hard to protect. Yes, protect. We work these habitats and are recognized as one of the most sustainable and environmentally conscientious farming practices in the world. It is because I work so intimately within these waters that I care so deeply about the future of all the marine life here.

I am concerned that this project and others like it will sustain damage to the bottom habitat that can never be reversed. This damage will be caused by the installation of the tethered platforms, from the cables that need to be hydro-dredged for miles to bring the power in to land, and from the electromagnetic fields that will disrupt many different species throughout the water column. Additionally, these floating platforms are not able to work- or "harvest the wind"- in winds over 40mph. The Gulf of Maine regularly sees winds exceeding this. These behemoth structures will have to feather their blades for much of the time and won't be doing the job that we might hope for, as a green energy source. Furthermore, while models have projected how the platform will perform in regards to wave size, this has not been studied in conjunction WITH cross currents, storm surge, or tidal bores. Any model that does not consider all these factors together does not present an adequate case upon which to gamble the future of our ocean.

I am concerned that the turbines will also be a serious hazard to navigation for fishermen and recreational boats alike. That is while they are tethered. What plan is in place when a platform breaks loose in a storm?

I strongly believe that any offshore wind development on the coast of Maine could be a death blow to our industry and to the economy of Maine as a whole. So many depend upon the tourism and seafood related jobs so closely tied to our iconic lobster. Please, I implore you to support LD101, "An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Development"

Respectfully submitted,

John Seiders