

Edward Seiders
South Bristol, Maine
Student License holder
Age 11

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am here to ask for your support of LD101. My name is Eddie Seiders, and I am 11 years old. I work for the lobstering industry on the coast of Rutherford Island in South Bristol, Maine. I have been helping my dad on his lobstering boat since I was three or four and got my own license when I was 8 for my first 10 traps. I have a 12 foot skiff and haul my traps by hand. This year I have built my own traps over the last two months and am excited as I am almost finished. My grandfather hand-knits the twine heads used in my traps and I love watching him make them. I hope he can teach me how to knit them so I can do my own next year.

I know that I am a lucky kid. There are only five or six other kids in this small town that also lobster either on their own or with their parents. These boys and girls have told me that they want to lobster when they grow up. I do too.

I am worried that the cable from the offshore wind turbine will destroy the lobster fishery. I am also worried that it will hurt more than just the lobsters. I know that it is all connected and that this ecosystem will be really hurt if the cable is laid on the floor of the Damariscotta River. Our river is special. Our river is filled with amazing fish, shellfish, super rich in plankton, horseshoe crabs, and animals that go all the way from the sea up to Great Salt Bay. Dredging the lower part of the river will stir up the heavy metals left from WWII boat construction right across from my house. The stirred up mud will suffocate the sea life. And the power running through the cable will drive off the lobsters.

I want a future lobstering but I also want a future for the rest of the community, my friends, and also the lobsters, fish and other creatures in the water. We don't need renewable energy captured from winds on the sea that will ruin the sea. I want to keep the ocean clean and protected. The ocean is the last place we should put the wind turbines or run cables that warm the bottom even more. I really want to stop the Monhegan project. I hope this bill, LD101, and your support of it, will help save our precious river and the rest of the coast of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie

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