

Tenley Seiders
South Bristol, Maine

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, I am writing to ask for your support of LD101, An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development.

My name is Tenley Seiders and I am the wife of a lobsterman, the mother of a student license holder, and a marine biologist and economist by education. The lobster industry touches so many aspects of our state economy- from processors to roadside lobster roll food trucks, wedding venues to t-shirt shops. Our economy is fundamentally tied to the fishing industry and the health of the Gulf of Maine waters. And while I do believe we should seek green, renewable energy sources, we also need to do so in a way that does not destroy one of the most productive ecosystems in the world, the Gulf of Maine. I implore you to protect the natural resources and communities that make us unique by supporting LD101.

Offshore wind turbines are host to myriad issues. Seabird fatalities, including puffins, are a known cost of these turbines. The sound disturbance will disrupt whale migration, including the endangered Atlantic Right Whale. And while the list goes on, today I want to address my greatest concern: the transmission of power from offshore windmills to land via cables, and specifically the proposed cable route from Monhegan Island into East Boothbay.

Cutting through a tremendously rich ecosystem and historical fishing ground, the bottom will be hydrodredged to a depth of six feet. This will scatter tons of cubic yards of silt throughout the water column, suffocating phytoplankton, zooplankton, fish, crustaceans, eggs, flora, etc. The silt does not just settle but will be carried by currents and tide up our rivers, suffocating the oyster farms, estuaries, and salt marshes. It will be carried out to sea, disrupting larger sea life. Increased turbidity and a loss of oxygenated water as well as loss of existing habitat for the creatures that live in the waters along our coast will result.

The electromagnetic field emitted from the cable will discourage lobsters' seasonal migration to shed in shallow waters. How much is yet to be known. There are myriad studies about how EMFs disrupt other fauna *within* the water column but very little regarding the critters that live on the bottom. Not knowing this information and still being willing to go ahead with laying such a cable, experimenting with an entire ecosystem, is beyond irresponsible. In addition to the EMFs, heat will be given off from the cable, warming the water directly around the cable to 36°F. We are already concerned about the temperatures of the Gulf of Maine. Adding a heat source across the ocean floor only adds to the problem.

Our state relies upon the lobster- for tourism as well as directly as a resource. The health of the fishery, the marine ecosystem, and the overall health of Maine's GDP is not worth risking until we have robust studies that address these concerns. What we do know about siltation, EMFs, and the heat given off by the cable will all adversely affect our waters. "No

adverse effect” is a term that is used repeatedly in the Maine Department of Environmental Protection laws and rules. I urge you to revisit these noted chapters specifically as they seem to be in direct conflict with the outcome of the Monhegan Project. The following chapters and their subsections are highlighted from the Maine DEP.

Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 5, §480-HH- Protection and Improvement of Waters

(specific to the Monhegan research project but the project as it stands no longer meets the permitting guidelines)

Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act

Chapter 382: Wind Energy Act Standards

Chapter 310: Wetlands and Waterbodies Protection

In closing I ask again for your support of LD101. The health of the fishery and the Gulf of Maine waters is vital to the health of Maine as a state. I believe that this bill would help protect these priceless waters from the destruction that will result from industrializing the ocean with offshore wind turbines. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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