

Amy Simmons
Friendship

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology. I am writing to you today to ask you for your support of Bill LD- 101.

My name is Amy Simmons and I am from Friendship, Maine. My husband is a 3rd generation lobsterman. I am here today as I am highly concerned with current events taking place in the Lobstering Industry. The lobstering community feels unheard and unsupported. The effects that The Windmill Project will have on the fishing families and fishing communities will be devastating.

The Windmill Project won't be devastating just to the lobstering community, but it will also be destroying our oceans habitat. An example is Eastern Egg Rock, where all of the Puffins' nests rest. The windmills have been shown to kill birds. The windmills can kill the Puffins, Bald Eagles and any other birds near it. What about the ocean floor? Not only is the natural ocean floor going to be blasted, but then what about the huge chains that will be holding down the floating windmill? On rough days the chains will be slamming against the ocean floor destroying anything under it.

Our Governor has stated she wants to ban windmills in state waters for the next 10 years where 75% of the Lobstermen fish, but put them offshore in Federal waters. Did you know there are over 1000 Lobstermen who fish in Federal waters year round? Did you know that they employ 2-4 crew members year round? This is 1000s of good paying, sustainable jobs that our Governor is willing to risk.

Theres been a lot said about these hard working men and women in the fishing industry from the people who are in support of the Windmills. From how these men and women should just go and start up new businesses from the relief money they've received to how they are monsters and should learn to share the ocean. Yes, they are fighting for their livelihoods BUT if you stopped and listened to what they were saying, they are telling you all the reasons why the Windmills would destroy the Ocean. If you talk to most of these lobstermen they are for green energy; they want to preserve the ocean. It is their livelihood and they would not want to destroy it and would want to do whatever they needed to protect it. They have shown this over many years by following all the rules and regulations that have been put on them. This is why Maine has the most sustainable fishing industry.

Our Governor won't listen to the fishermen and doesn't even have the decency to meet with them. In fact she refuses. The fishing Industry generates more than a half a billion dollars a year and brings many tourist to Maine. Why don't these men and women deserve more than just a comply or else? Please understand Windmills aren't green, from how they are made to how they are deconstructed and buried in landfills. Listen to these men and women who spend their lives on the ocean.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Simmons