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Development of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine will ultimately lead to the economic downfall of not only the states greatest industry; lobster, but the state as a whole. The lobster industry is the states second largest industry, but the trickle down economics, as well as the tourism draw it creates, makes it a cornerstone of the entire economy. Offshore wind will force fishermen out of their generational fishing grounds, leading to the collapse of the entire industry.

On its face offshore wind has an appeal as a good source of clean green energy, but when you dig a little deeper you find that wind isn't nearly as green as it appears.

Windmills have large gearboxes, which require oil in order to run. Like any other machine they can and will fail over time, causing oil to leak from the gearbox and into the ocean. Additionally, the blades are made from a non recyclable fiberglass, which must be buried in a landfill when the turbine is decommissioned.

Additionally, wind power is very inefficient. There is a lot of power required to build, place, repair and decommission windmills. Offshore windmills are even more difficult to work on because of their inaccessibility. All the work must be done from boats, which burn fossil fuels. This lowers the overall efficiency and increases the CO2 emissions of the turbine even more. Alternate forms of renewable energy operate much more efficiently then wind power. Nuclear plants operate around 93% efficient and hydro electric is around 42%, while wind barely manages 35% efficiency, and offshore wind is expected to be even lower then that.

Offshore wind has an astronomical startup cost compared to onshore wind. The average wind turbine costs 2 million dollars per megawatt of rated capacity. The windmills at block island cost around 10 million per megawatt of rated capacity. Combine this with increased strain caused by the waves and marine elements, aka higher repair costs and a shorter lifespan and you get a program that is unaffordable for the average consumer.

When you evaluate windmills for overall efficiency, you have to factor in everything. From costs, to co2 emissions, and even the livelihoods of those who will be effected. In this case that is the Maine fishermen and women. Destroying the careers of these hard working families, along with those they support, just to create short term jobs building windmills is not economically feasible. This is a industry full of hard working men and women who care more about the environment then most people. After all we depend on this ecosystem to make our living. We don't wish to see it torn apart and our careers destroyed in the name of "green" energy, that will ultimately fail and end up in a landfill with no positive financial or environmental impact.

There are many other options of renewable green energy that don't require the destruction of a hard working industry. Nuclear power, hydro electric and solar are all much more viable options. Offshore wind is an unproven, untested technology and we should not use the pristine waters of the gulf of Maine as a science lab to test these massive turbines. LD101 protects our Maine waters and costal communities from the horrors of offshore wind, and ensures that our fisheries will be here for future generations.