

Brennan Strong
Yarmouth

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, I hope you are well. I am writing to ask for your support of LD 101. I am 23 years old and a full time lobsterman from Yarmouth, Maine. I am at a point in my career where I've busted my ass to pay off 800 traps and a 30 foot boat. Normally at my young age with my ambition I would be looking to expand my business into a bigger boat with a federal permit and go offshore fishing, but all of that is on hold because of the threat of wind farms and more regulations. I am first generation, and probably last. I am at the point where I need to just enjoy the 10 years I have left doing my dream job before its all gets uprooted by our government. If you support LD 101 you can tell your grandchildren you stood up for the fishermen of the coast to stop that uprooting of our way of life. Green energy is great, but when the cost outweighs the benefits, its time to re-evaluate. The immense area these turbines take up would certainly displace hundreds of fishermen, putting many right out of business and for those with the grit to keep going, it will create unheard of gear conflicts and tangles in neighboring areas where they are forced to move to. If you came lobstering once you would see that even "not so bad" tangles can break or kill you. So making that any worse would be a nightmare. The dredge process for laying the cable is very destructive. It will instantly kill anything in its direct path as they lay the cable and create a huge underwater sediment cloud that will bury and suffocate even more marine life. The turbine blades will kill many birds, including our puffins. There is very incomplete data on how EMF will affect marine life. Instead of rushing along massive projects we need to keep doing more research. We should study all things good and bad about the block island wind farm and cables and talk to fishermen there as well as everywhere in the world there has been an OSW and fishing overlap, to learn truly what's going on in depth before we consider even one project in Maine. Also, with Maine already getting almost 80% of our power from renewables, why the rush? We're just going to sell the power out of state. Please don't take away independent family businesses just so corporations can sell power. I wish I could write more, with better data and testify in person, but like most other fishermen I'm in a huge rush to get ready for the summer season. We have to make the most of it because if offshore wind does not get stopped it could be one of our last. Please support LD 101, thank you.

Sincerely,
Brennan Strong