

Testimony on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 567

In support of L.D. 1619, *An Act To Establish a Moratorium on Offshore Wind Power Projects in Maine's Territorial Waters*

And

**In opposition to L.D. 101, *An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development*
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology**

May 4, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology; I am Jim Valente, here today to speak on behalf of the IBEW Local 567. Our union represents 280 Maine electricians who have been providing the highest quality electrical work in Maine since 1915.

We oppose L.D. 101, which would ban all offshore wind development in Maine waters as well as banning any permits for cables, buildings, or other supporting infrastructure for offshore wind in federal waters. The bill is a job-killer and would have Maine turn its back on the future. It will fail at stopping offshore wind in federal waters. The only thing it can do is guarantee that the workers who develop offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine will not be Maine workers. It will leave our fishermen as after-thoughts to what's best for Massachusetts and New Hampshire. But even worse, it will leave our children to move out of the state for good jobs that should be Maine's.

We know offshore wind is good for workers and good for our future. While there is more than 30,000 MW of offshore wind in development in states from Massachusetts to North Carolina, the Gulf of Maine has the best wind resource on the East Coast. Maine can and should have a leading voice in developing the Gulf of Maine and Maine workers can and should benefit from the work involved.

As we look south at the development in these other states, we see the great opportunity for current Maine workers and the next generation of workers. These jobs are good paying jobs with full benefits. Maine's offshore wind project developers are already working on their commitments for job training and local supplier qualification.

We support L.D. 1619 as a good plan to protect Maine's territorial waters while continuing to have Maine lead on offshore wind development in federal waters. This means that Maine's fishermen and Maine's union workers will both be front and center in the minds of those leading this effort.

Thank you.