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Firstly, I would like to commend the Governor and the Senator from York for bill LD 1619. This bill outlines the economic problems that offshore windmills in territorial waters would have for Maine's fisherman and seems to come to a reasonable compromise.

My concerns are thus:

Windmills have been proven to affect the avian life, and oceanic or pelagic bird life will be even more impacted. I'm not an expert on marine life, but my step mother was a naturalist for a whale watching boat my dad captained and I have spent many wonderful days in our gulf of Maine. My theory is that because open water birds are not familiar with large structures, they will be severely impacted and many deaths will occur. Whales also feed in those non-territorial waters and it may effect the way that they consume their food. The fish life may also be impacted in other ways.

Furthermore, I'm not sure of the calculations, but it seems to me that these offshore windmills will have to number in the thousands or tens of thousands to produce sufficient energy. Will the financiers of these windmills be satisfied with the non-territorial waters given to them, or will they demand closer shores with less expense? If they are moved closer to shore, how will our vast hospitality industry fair?

I thank the committee for holding a public hearing on this matter and wish them good day.