

Hannah Allen
Hampden

Testimony Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology
LD 336: "An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore
Wind Industry"
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Hannah Allen, of Hampden, Maine here to speak in support of LD 336.

I am thankful to once again have the opportunity to speak to my experience with the floating offshore wind industry in Maine. I was born and raised in Farmington, Maine and after graduating from Mount Blue High School in 2011 I left this great state to see other parts of New England. I graduated from the University of New Haven in West Haven, Connecticut in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and minor in sustainability studies. I then moved to Massachusetts and found a job in the defense industry working on inspection limits for military jet engines. While at my job I found myself longing for something that could have an impact on a more global scale. From there, I applied to the UMaine graduate school to pursue a degree with a focus in floating offshore wind.

I have dedicated the last three and a half years of my life to increasing my knowledge about technologies in the offshore wind industry, both while completing my Master's degree and now as a full-time engineer at the Advanced Structures and Composites Center at UMaine. This research array represents the potential for Maine to continue on as an example of how offshore wind can be done right. Research on this scale is critical to promoting a more complete understanding of the impacts of floating offshore wind both for industry and the public at large. With the planned deployment of the single turbine off of Monhegan Island we are taking a valuable first step, but without any steps to follow we risk losing much of the progress that has been gained.

Offshore wind was the reason I came back to Maine and now, as a research engineer, it is one of the reasons I have stayed. Through the advancement of floating offshore wind in our state I hope that many others will find it as a reason for them to stay, or even never leave. Working in floating offshore wind in this capacity was a dream I never could have imagined coming true in Maine just a few years ago, but now here I am on an incredible team that keeps growing. I am hopeful that that dream will be attainable for the generations coming behind us and even those looking for new opportunity right now, but that cannot happen without your support.

I encourage this Committee to support LD 336. Thank you, and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Hannah Allen
Research Engineer
University of Maine
Advanced Structures and Composites Center
35 Flagstaff Road
Orono, ME 04469
Hannah.louise.allen@maine.edu
(207) 779-6152