

Via Electronic Mail

May 11, 2021

The Honorable Mark Lawrence
Chair, Energy, Utilities, & Technology Committee
Senate Democratic Office
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

The Honorable Seth Berry
Chair, Energy, Utilities, & Technology Committee
House Majority Office
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Northeast Clean Energy Council Written Testimony on LD336, An Act to Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry

Dear Chair Lawrence and Chair Berry,

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (the “Council”) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of LD336, An Act to Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry. Offshore wind represents a transformative opportunity to accelerate the clean energy transition in the northeast with homegrown resources. The Council supports granting the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) the authority to enter into and/or facilitate long-term contracts to conduct research on the development of floating offshore wind projects as a way to help Maine chart its own course for offshore wind development.

The Council is a clean energy business, policy, and innovation organization whose mission is to create a world-class clean energy hub in the Northeast, delivering global impact with economic, energy and environmental solutions. The Council is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. Council members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and “smart” technologies.

We recognize that the development of offshore wind resources must be done carefully and responsibly. Adding to the body of research related to offshore wind will help Maine take control of its offshore destiny. We appreciate the leadership of Governor Mills in advancing the innovative Aqua Ventus project, which can serve as a guide to technology advancement, economic development, and the thoughtful path to commercial offshore wind development off of

Maine's coast. Research into floating offshore wind can lead to a path forward for responsible development not only in Maine, but globally, allowing Maine to be a leader in this emerging technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on LD336. The Council strongly supports research that can support offshore wind development. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeremy McDiarmid
Vice President, Policy & Government Affairs



Sean Burke
Policy Associate