



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Billy Bob Faulkingham

P.O. Box 121
Winter Harbor, ME 04693
Cell Phone: (207) 460-6967
William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov

May 24, 2021
Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham
Testimony
In Opposition

LD 336 An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee On Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham and I am here to speak in opposition to LD 336.

In 2019 80% of Maine's electricity generation came from renewable energy sources. Maine leads New England in wind power generation. We rank six in the nation and wind provides 24% of our net generation. I point this out to say that Maine is a leader. I see many people testifying in a way that portrays Maine as being in the back of the pack which is far from the truth.

This bill is confusing. Why would we make taxpayers pay for this research that would essentially be a subsidy for foreign corporations? And after funding that research why would we put the profiteer in charge of the research?

What I'd like to know, and this question has been asked is why haven't we started an independent study on the environmental impacts? We have been told that we need to move quickly given the Governor's ambitious goals. I've heard this over and over and over again from many people in this public hearing and others. Where did the goals come from and why are we using these goals as a target?

We are being told that we need to hurry so we may be a leader, but what does that really mean? Does that really mean so that Mitsubishi could be a leader? How does this really benefit the Maine taxpayers and ratepayers?

We've been told this bill has no contract price on the limit of power delivery cost and as a matter fact there truly is not a bill before us today because it's coming out all at a later day apparently. We need to make sure that whatever happens that the PUC has the final say.

The fishing industry has been getting thrown under the bus on this issue. We continue to hear that the Gulf of Maine has 36,000 mi.² of water and the fishing industry needs to share. Well in that regard state waters are only 3,000 square miles. Why isn't it possible

to take 3000 miles immediately off the table? The closest Federal Area is where 100% of Maine's lobster industry fishes. That area of Federal waters is 11,098 square miles in its entirety from the New Hampshire border to Canada. That leaves 2/3 of the Gulf of Maine that is un-fished by Maine's fishing fleet. So why is the fishing industry branded as selfish when we're only talking about 1/3 of the water in the GOM? We can't even get that 1/3 excluded from this conversation? It seems to be a contradictory statement to call the fishing industry the selfish one, when more than 2/3 of the GOM is not fished by the industry and we can't even move the conversation into that 2/3 of water.

I said in previous testimony we have posed many and by we, I mean the fishing industry; myself included, have many questions on the environmental repercussions that have not been answered. It's not good enough to simply state that we need to address global climate change and ignore all the possible environmental impacts. We need an independent study and roadmap that focuses on the 2/3 of the GOM that doesn't impact the majority of Maine's fisheries. If there is to be a research array it needs to be done beyond 40 miles and Maine should be guaranteed substantial returns from the corporations who stand to profit.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham