



STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SPEAKER'S OFFICE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1300

RYAN M. FECTEAU  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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*Testimony of Speaker Fecteau supporting*  
**LD 336, An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology*

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I am Ryan Fecteau and I represent part of my hometown of Biddeford. I also have the distinct honor of serving as the Speaker of the Maine House. I am privileged to offer testimony in support of **LD 336, An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry**.

Living in a coastal community, I understand the dramatic impact that climate change is having on our environment and economy. From property values threatened by sea level rise to a tourism industry grappling with extreme weather events and invasive pests, climate change will affect our way of life and many livelihoods. It's imperative that we seek out new sources of energy that foster economic growth and reduce our carbon output.

The Gulf of Maine is home to some of the strongest wind in the world. This is an untapped resource that could be put to use to power our energy grid, boost our economy and reduce our carbon emissions. In order to harness this offshore energy, Maine needs continued research into the technology that will make floating offshore wind a reality. That is why I am proud to support LD 336.

A research array would allow Maine to lead the country in this alternative energy generation and inform our understanding of this emerging technology. With offshore wind investment in the U.S. estimated to top \$70 billion over the next 10 years, this is an enormous opportunity.

This project can be completed with our fishing community, an integral part of our natural resource economy, at the table. The State has already conducted significant outreach to Maine fishermen to discuss this array, who are adding to the conversation. As the project moves forward, it will inform scientific studies related to the relationship between offshore wind turbines and the marine environment. This is an important area of scientific research that could benefit coastal communities for decades to come.

I want to be clear. We cannot leave our fishing industry, its workers and their families behind. I have been a strong supporter of protecting this industry, because I know how integral it is to the Maine way of life. That's why I strongly opposed the federal rules concerning right whales.

This proposal ensures that in the waters under Maine's control offshore wind arrays are not permitted. In other words, our friends in the fishing industry will be able to fish in the gulf in the same ways they have for decades.

An offshore wind array could be monumental for Maine. I support this research effort that would employ Maine workers, inspire our students, reduce our emissions and inform marine studies. This is exactly the type of project that we need to support.

Thank you for your consideration.