



MAY 11, 2021

BEFORE THE MAINE LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY  
BILL 336

TESTIMONY OF THE NATIONAL OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

Good morning and thank you for allowing me to testify on Bill No. 336 Offshore Wind Energy Research.

My name is Carrie Cullen Hitt and I am the executive Director of the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium. The Consortium is a not-for-profit public-private partnership focused on advancing offshore wind technology in the United States through high impact research projects and cost-effective and responsible development to maximize economic benefits. Funding for the Consortium comes from the U.S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), with each providing \$20.5 million, as well as contributions from the Commonwealths of Virginia and Massachusetts and the States of Maryland and Maine, bringing total investment to approximately \$47 million.

To date, we have issued 40 research awards, one of which is to the University of Maine for \$1.5M – *Design Validation and Certification of Taut Synthetic Mooring Line System*. More information on these awards and our work please visit [nationaloffshorewind.org](http://nationaloffshorewind.org).

Research plays an important role in energy development, in particularly offshore wind, where innovation and technological advancements will lower costs, mitigate environment impacts and also contributes to the development of key local job. The offshore wind economy needs all

types of skills and insight. Offshore wind is an important part of Maine's clean energy and economic future. Maine is already a key participant in developments of offshore wind economy by being home to a key research center - the Advanced Structures and Composite Center. If constructed, a research array in Maine will be one of the first pre-commercial scale (50-200MW) floating offshore wind projects in the world and will highlight Maine's capability and potential.

Bill 336 will help advance the prospect of a research array which continue the great work started in Maine and leverage Maine's research capabilities and nascent industry.

