

**Testimony of Blaine Buck in support of
L.D. 336, *An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry*,
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
May 11, 2021**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Blaine Buck, a resident of Camden. I am here today speaking on my own behalf in support of L.D. 336, An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry. Based on my over 30 years of experience practicing architecture, engineering, and project management for a wide number of clients around the world, I understand that this bill is necessary to create the opportunity for Maine to continue its development of offshore wind, a nascent industry that offers substantial environmental, energy and economic opportunity for our state.

I will briefly review my experience that supports my understanding of what is needed for development of projects proposing new economic opportunities. I am a licensed architect, registered professional engineer, certified project management professional, and certified energy manager. I am a founding member of Cordjia Capital Projects Group. Cordjia is a professional consultancy, dedicated to delivering cost-effective construction risk management, real estate asset solutions, architecture, and engineering services. Collectively, our founding partners have successfully managed the construction of more than 5,000 projects, with a combined 20 million square feet totaling over \$4 billion over the last thirty years. Prior to my time with Cordjia, I served as president of an architectural and engineering consulting group and before that as Director of International Design and Development for a Fortune 300 company. I was responsible for all facets of real estate development in parts of North America and overseas.

I have reviewed the history of Maine's offshore wind development, a history that has led us to this moment. The long commitment evident in that history is remarkable – as remarkable as the opportunity that offshore wind presents for Maine. In project development, planning is critical. Twelve years of technology and project development by the University of Maine is the kind of sustained commitment that can be needed to make a researcher's vision into a practical reality. In addition, thoughtful staffing and consultant selection can make or break development projects. This project appears to me to have now brought together the right mix of qualified government officials with experience in the applicable administrative processes with an experienced offshore wind developer. Finally, as with so many proposed developments, timing is critical. It appears to me that our neighboring states and the federal government are committed to developing offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. How to control the timing of such development will be essential to Maine's reaping of the benefits of offshore wind. This bill will allow Maine to be successful with both careful and timely development of offshore wind designed to maximize the benefit to Maine.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on Maine development of offshore wind.
Please support L.D. 336. Thank you.