

**Testimony of Nick Paquet on behalf of International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local 1253**

**In Support of LD 336, *An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine
Offshore Wind Industry***

May 11, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Nick Paquet and I am testifying on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1253, in strong opposition to LD 101, An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development.

IBEW Local 1253 was established in 1946. We have been wiring Maine with pride, integrity, professionalism, craftsmanship, efficiency, and safe throughout the electrical industry. In 1976 our apprenticeship program was founded. Since then, we have trained hundreds of men and women in the electrical industry that meets and exceeds Maine's license examination.

The opportunity to grow an offshore wind industry in Maine was recognized over a decade ago. Early in 2009 both Governor Baldacci's Ocean Energy Task Force and the Legislature acknowledged the potential for the University of Maine and the state's economy to benefit from clear policy supporting offshore wind. Today is an opportunity to continue on this path.

New York has worked to develop its offshore wind industry and it's already paying off with hundreds of new, high-quality jobs in the area with thousands more predicted that will be both directly and indirectly supported by wind. The Gulf of Maine's strong and consistent winds hold the east coast's greatest potential for wind power generation: as a result, an economic analysis from the consulting firm Wood Mackenzie predicts that wind generation in the Gulf of Maine will support over 20,000 new jobs. If the State doesn't follow through on its commitment to offshore wind, the opportunity to bring such significant opportunity to communities throughout Maine will likely be lost.

LD 336 will keep Maine moving toward its economic development goals, but also toward its climate obligations. Importantly, LD 336 also advances the State's interest in maintaining a strong voice in federal decisions about how the Gulf of Maine is used. This voice can greatly benefit many stakeholders in Maine, but on behalf of IBEW Local 1253, I ask you to support this bill to bring good jobs to Maine workers for years to come.

Thank you.