



May 11, 2021

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Seth Berry, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in support of LD 336, “An Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my name is Jeremy Payne and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. MREA members sustainably manufacture electricity from hydro, biomass, wind, tidal, and solar.

MREA testifies in support of LD 336 because it offers important certainty as offshore wind gets off the ground in Maine. It has long been understood that floating offshore technology would proceed in a typical research and development format, whereby a scaled version is tested, then a research array, and if all things check out in terms of energy production, siting, and construction then it would advance to full-scale project deployment.

If Maine is to achieve its goal of beneficial electrification, it stands to reason that offshore wind will have an integral role to play in the years ahead. LD 336 will help move us in the direction of assessing whether that role will be filled by New England Aqua Ventus, another offshore wind technology, and/or a combination of other sources of Maine-made clean energy.

We respectfully urge the committee to vote ought to pass.¹

Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ All of the views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the positions of each of our members. Since MREA represents a broad spectrum of companies, we anticipate some members may submit comments of their own.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Payne', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy N. Payne
Executive Director