

Testimony in Support of Act To Encourage Research To Support the Maine Offshore Wind Industry

To: JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator David Woodsome, Senate Chair
Representative Seth Barry House Chair

From: Stephen Von Vogt, President of Maine Marine Composites and Managing Director of Maine Composites Alliance

Senator Woodsome, Representative Barry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on:

My name is Stephen Von Vogt and I reside in Portland Maine. I am the president of Maine Marine Composites, an ocean engineering firm in Portland Maine as well as a principal in several companies involved in energy development and the reuse of shuttered industrial facilities in Maine for new purposes and uses. In my professional career, I have been involved on the ground in efforts to develop and redevelop the economy in Maine.

I want to support the State's efforts to develop, train and support our supply chain for offshore wind and offshore energy. I have been involved in offshore wind and off energy for twenty years. Maine has a significant Supply Chain active in offshore energy working in New England, the entire United States and around the world. The active supply chain includes engineering and consulting firms such as Stantec, TRC, Kleinschmidt, HDR and many others. These companies have significant employee bases living, spending money and paying taxes in Maine. In addition, we have a strong heritage in working on the water and we export our skill and labor around the world.

We have many specialty companies like Deep Water Buoyancy in Biddeford, marine architecture, and engineering firms, like my own and fabrication companies like Kenway Corporation in Augusta that supply components to the offshore industry that are completely below the radar. We have large, specialized construction companies like Cianbro and Reed & Reed that have unique skills for this market and work across the region. We have education institutions training our kids, like MMA and University of Maine, that send our kids around the world to work and hopefully many returning to base their efforts home, here in Maine.

The value of this effort in growing this vital economic resource found in our Ocean Energy Supply Chain cannot be underestimated. We have unique skills and products than can be grown for this inevitable new market.