



Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

My name is Mohamed Ibrahim, I live in Lewiston and work for Maine People's Alliance as a community organizer. I have been in this role for the past 6 years and have worked across cultural differences. My organization, on behalf of our over 32 thousand members, is testifying in support of this bill, LD 1895 "n Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources."

We Strongly support LD 1895, which aims to foster a responsible offshore wind industry for our state. This legislation is crucial for the future of Maine's economy and environment, and I believe it will bring numerous benefits to our communities.

The development of offshore wind farms will create new job opportunities for Mainers and stimulate economic growth in our state. This industry has the potential to bring in millions of dollars in revenue and support local businesses, while also providing a reliable source of energy for our homes and businesses.

One of the biggest challenges that is continuously brought up by our members is the lack of employment for youth and people of color, especially immigrants and refugees. LD 1895 will create good family-sustaining jobs that our members are eager for.

Of course, it is important that this industry is developed responsibly and with consideration for the environment and local communities. LD 1895 includes provisions for environmental monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and public input, ensuring that the development of offshore wind farms is done in a way that is safe, sustainable, and respectful of Maine's natural resources and its people.

LD 1895 demands that the PUC require a robust, written Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plan. It further requires that the commission, through Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program, establish standards for hiring that include the recruitment of traditionally underrepresented populations and promote DEI with a focus on Maine's federally recognized tribes and the state's environmental justice population.

This is particularly important to the Maine Frontline Climate Formation, which brings together union, tribal, and immigrant leaders to engage frontline communities – those impacted first and worst by

climate change – to craft solutions to the climate crisis. LD 1895 is one such solution that Maine People’s Alliance and the rest of the members of the Maine Frontline Climate Formation are enthusiastic about.

In conclusion, I urge our lawmakers to support LD 1895 and foster a responsible offshore wind industry for Maine.