



MAINE

Lobstermen's Association, Inc.

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In Support of

LD 1884 An Act to Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development

May 18, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Kristan Porter and I am a commercial lobsterman from Cutler and President of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). The MLA supports LD 1884 to prohibit offshore wind development.

The MLA thanks Representative Strout and the bill cosponsors for bringing this bill forward to expand Maine's ban of offshore wind to include federal waters.

The MLA strongly opposes offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. MLA's opposition is deeply rooted in concern over industrializing a fragile and productive Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Erecting hundreds of offshore wind turbines taller than Boston's Prudential tower that sit on floating platforms the length of a football field is an industrialization of the Gulf of Maine, putting at risk its wildlife, habitat, commercial and recreational fisheries, and a way of life that has sustained thousands of Maine families for more than a century.

Despite our opposition, the MLA has been highly engaged in Maine's offshore wind planning process to learn as much as possible about offshore wind, particularly floating technology, while educating other stakeholders about the importance of the Gulf of Maine to the fishing industry and its concerns with this renewable energy source.

Both the state and federal governments readily acknowledge that the impacts of large scale floating offshore wind development are largely unknown, yet they want to figure it out as they go, and continue to charge forward. This is not a risk the fishing industry is willing to take.

If this Committee determines that it does not have the authority to ban offshore wind in federal waters, the MLA strongly recommends that you review the federal consistency provision under the Coastal Zone Management Act that allows the state to review federal actions. The Legislature should make sure that it has proper statutes, regulations and permitting

requirements in place to ensure that federal offshore wind projects do not adversely affect the state of Maine.

With more than 20,000 individuals employed aboard Maine's fishing vessels and the seafood supply chain, offshore wind threatens a way of life that has sustained thousands of Maine families for more than a century.

The MLA urges you to vote ought to pass on LD 1884 to prevent offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. Thank you for your consideration.