



To: Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Anna Siegel, Maine Youth Action

Date: 05.18.23

Re: Testimony in support of L.D. 1895, **An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology. My name is Anna Siegel, and I write as a representative of Maine Youth Action, where our goal is to fight for bold, equitable and intersectional climate policy in Maine on a state and municipal level through youth voice, power and action. To achieve this, Maine Youth Action works with the Maine legislature to pass environmental bills, as well as working to elect candidates to the legislature who will be climate champions. Maine Youth Action is a youth-led organization that is open to anyone under the age of thirty. We believe that L.D. 1895 is an important step forward for a livable future.

Establishing the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program with L.D. 1895 would undoubtedly advance Maine's renewable energy goals outlined in the "Maine Won't Wait" Climate Action Plan. This bill reflects the needs of a changing world with language surrounding economic justice, ecological management, and the urgency of the climate crisis. The emphasis in the bill on diversity, justice, and inclusion in the local hiring and competitive solicitation that would result from L.D. 1895 is important for the just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The bill also highlights the mitigation and monitoring of the natural environment surrounding offshore wind installations. This is essential to preserve the ecology in the short-term that renewable energy such as offshore wind would preserve in the long-term.

There is a narrative around renewable energy projects, wind turbines in particular, about how detrimental they are to migrating and resident bird species. Yet avian fatalities from wind turbines are often exaggerated as a talking point in opposition to these turbines. In reality, millions more bird deaths occur because of collisions with fossil fuel power plants, as found by a [2009 study](#). Furthermore, there are simple solutions to reduce the number of deaths that do occur. A [2020 study](#) conducted by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research found that

painting one blade of a wind turbine black can reduce avian fatalities near turbines by over 70%.

Renewable energy is crucial for a livable world, today and in the future. Maine is uniquely poised for offshore wind and the state must take advantage of this opportunity. Maine Youth Action urges you to vote ought-to-pass on L.D. 1895.

Anna Siegel
Yarmouth
LD 1895

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