



Committee on Labor and Housing
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

May 9, 2023

RE: LD 1818, An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects

Dear Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1818, An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects on behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers.

Maine Audubon is a strong supporter of offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine as a leading strategy for Maine to achieve its climate and clean energy goals. The potential for offshore wind energy development, specifically using floating technology, is far greater than any other renewable energy source – an estimated 156 gigawatts of energy per year, more than 70 times the amount of electricity used by the entire state of Maine.

As a wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation organization, our staff biologists and policy team are actively understanding, researching, and pursuing strategies to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts from offshore wind development on the Gulf of Maine environment. We're also pursuing strategies to ensure Maine people benefit from this new development. LD 1818 is such a strategy.

LD 1818 sets a critical foundation for catalyzing a responsible offshore wind industry in Maine. The bill sets strong standards for port facilities that are necessary for building offshore wind at scale and puts Maine in a strong position to secure the permits and federal funding to build – using skilled, Maine workers – such facilities. Building a purpose-built offshore wind port in Maine is essential to Maine realizing the full economic benefit of offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine and beyond. This bill supports and enhances such development through permitting measures, as well as the requirement that state agencies pursue federal funds to enhance climate resilience and the biodiversity of any nearshore, intertidal, or upland areas disturbed by port development.

Maine Audubon strongly supports this legislation and we encourage the Committee to do the same. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliza Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Director of Advocacy