



Margaret O'Neil

21 Sheila Circle

Saco, ME 04072

Phone: (207) 590-1679

Margaret.ONeil@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

May 9, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Maggie O'Neil presenting

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

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, I am Rep. Maggie O'Neil. I represent House District 129 in Saco. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for **LD 1818, An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects**, which I am proud to cosponsor.

As Maine transitions to an economy built on clean, renewable energy, we have an incredible opportunity to ensure that transition promotes a more equitable future, supports working people, and protects our environment. LD 1818 is a critical step toward ensuring Maine's offshore wind industry is built in a way that creates high quality jobs and ensures a more sustainable future.

With these goals in mind, the bill proposes standards for creating the port facilities that are necessary for building offshore wind.

First, it requires offshore wind developers using state port facilities to enter into Project Labor Agreements and Labor Peace Agreements. As we mobilize to avert climate catastrophe through renewable energy, we are creating new jobs. LD 1818 ensures that new offshore wind jobs created will be well-paying, high quality jobs that support Maine families. This measure also puts our state in a position to maximize federal ports funding.

Second, it requires developers to prioritize 1) the use of registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and 2) hiring Maine residents, marginalized workers, and people

impacted by the growth of offshore wind in our state. These provisions will contribute to a strong workforce and a just clean energy transition.

Third, it directs both port facility operators and state agencies to pursue relevant federal funding to ensure projects that are climate friendly, protect biodiversity and ecosystems, and promote quality of life in the communities around port facilities.

Finally, LD 1818 ensures a robust public process around these projects. Stakeholder input and transparency will be essential to making sure that offshore wind projects are a success, and this bill ensures that port facility location and other important decisions are made with extensive public involvement.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions you may have for me.