



To: Committee on Labor and Housing

From: Ezra Sassaman, Maine Youth for Climate Justice

Date: May 9, 2023

Re: Testimony in favor of LD 1818: An Act Regarding Port Facilities Relating to Offshore Wind Power Projects

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and other members of the Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I am writing as a representative for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ), a coalition of over 460 youth from across the state who are fighting for bold climate action and a just transition to a livable future in Maine. I am writing in favor of LD 1818.

The climate justice framework recognizes the climate crisis does not affect everyone equally. The 2022 Maine Climate Council's Equity Subcommittee report describes how some communities have "intersecting vulnerabilities, overlaying sociodemographic disadvantages with exposure to climate hazards, energy system pollution, and economic dislocation driven by climate change and resulting policies."¹

Legislation like LD 1818 ensures these frontline communities are meaningfully included in climate solutions by requiring offshore wind ports to hire members of impoverished rural communities, environmental justice communities, tribal communities, and workers directly impacted by the growth of offshore wind energy. Ports represent an important avenue for working Mainers to benefit from the job growth promised by offshore wind, so the state needs to make sure no one is left behind.

Additionally, this legislation will best allow the state to take advantage of federal ports funding opportunities by requiring Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) and Labor Peace Agreements

¹ Sara Kelemen et al., "[Initial Recommendations of the Equity Subcommittee](#)", *Maine Climate Council*, February 2022, p. 11.

(LPAs) for offshore wind port workers. Funding opportunities like the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Floating Offshore Wind EarthShot Initiative all prioritize applications that commit to high labor standards, including PLAs and LPAs.

For the above reasons, our coalition, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, urges you to vote ought-to-pass on LD 1818. Thank you.