



Maine
Appalachian
Trail Club

*Managing and maintaining 267 miles
of the Appalachian Trail in Maine*

Testimony in Support of LD 901

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and
Natural Resources
March 23, 2017

Senator Saviello, Representative Tucker, and members of the
Committee,

My name is Tony Barrett. I am self-employed and a volunteer
trail maintainer both in my local community, in Harpswell and on
the Appalachian Trail. I speak in favor of **LD 901, An Act To
Amend the Laws Governing the Determination of a Wind
Energy Development's Effect on the Scenic Character of
Maine's Special Places.**

I represent the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. Since 1935,
members of the club have dedicated themselves to
constructing, maintaining and protecting the Appalachian Trail
from Grafton Notch to Katahdin. During 2016, 513 people
reported more than 28,000 volunteer hours as part of this effort.

Prior to 2008, there was no distance limit for visual impact
assessment. Regulators could examine impacts out to the
horizon. The 2008 Wind law established a distance limit for
evaluation – beyond 8-miles, a wind project is considered
invisible. We now know with experience and based on
recommendations from other experts that visual impacts need to
be assessed at longer distances. LD 901 provides a better
balance for siting grid-scale wind power development with
Maine's significant natural scenic resources.

After 8 years under the Wind Energy Act it is time to
'recalibrate' the Wind Energy Act to better balance wind power
development with protection of Maine's "quality of place".