



March 23, 2017

Senator Tom Saviello, Chair
Representative Joan Welsh, Chair
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Committee
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: Testimony in Opposition to LD 901, "To Amend The Laws Governing The Determination Of A Wind Energy Development's Effect On The Scenic Character Of Maine's Special Places"

Senator Saviello, Representative Welsh, members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kevin Sheen and I am the Senior Director of Public and Community Affairs for EverPower Wind Holdings. EverPower is a Pittsburgh, PA based developer, owner and operator of wind power projects. We have seven operating wind projects in four states comprising 752MWs of operating capacity. We have been actively developing several projects in Maine over the past 4 years.

EverPower stands in opposition of LD901 as it changes guidelines and rules that have already been established and puts at risk hundreds of millions of dollars of economic investment, thousands of jobs and much needed economic development to rural Maine without significantly improving the existing sting laws.

It is our understanding that the current 8 mile setback distance from scenic resources was chosen after hearing scientific studies about how small and barely visible wind turbines would be from a scenic view shed. While those in favor greater setbacks would like to point out that today's turbine technology has made turbines taller, they have not shown justification that the marginal increase in height would require a resulting doubling of the setback requirement.

EverPower went through a one year predevelopment process to evaluate 20 possible sites prior to developing them. We looked at all the outstanding and significant scenic resources that were within 8 miles of a prospective project sites based upon the LUPC and DEP standards for scenic resource. From this list of 20 we selected 4 sites for further development based upon the scenic resource impacts within their 8 miles.

We have invested several hundred thousand dollars with local civil engineering firms, lawyers, electrical engineering firms and environmental firms doing layouts and studies in Maine to date and have also made significant payments to landowners in our project areas. The next phase of development would require us to invest millions of dollars and in order to justify that investment we must have stable policies.



The current operating wind projects in Maine have generated more than a million megawatt hours of clean power and that clean power has resulted in hundreds of thousands of metric tons of CO2 emissions. Wind power has provided jobs, contributed to the local economy and provided a low-cost source of power.

EverPower submits that the current eight mile setback is sufficient to provide the protection Maine feels it needs from its scenic resources while still allowing for a stable policy which will allow for new wind farm development. We oppose LD 901 and urge you to vote against it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Sheen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Sheen
EverPower Wind Holdings