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TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW MARKS AGAINST 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
Joint Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources
128th Maine Legislature, First Regular Session
March 23, 2017

Good afternoon Senator Saviello, Representative Tucker, distinguished members of the Joint Joint Standing Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources. My name is Matt Marks; I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth and the Chief Executive Officer for the Associated General Contractors of Maine. *I am here to testify against 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.*

Wind energy development provides direct and indirect jobs for the entire construction industry including general contractors, subcontractors, and service and supply providers. Wind resources are abundant in Maine, and we are fortunate that many the ideal site locations for those facilities are in areas where economic development is needed. Besides the direct financial impact of income to Maine businesses who perform the majority of work related to these projects establishing a new business provides an additional tax base for the communities where they are located. Following a project completion maintenance and associated facility requirements provide additional job opportunities.

I believe any developer would agree that the process of permitting a wind project in Maine is a complex with existing protections for neighbors and visitors concerning location. We believe the current siting law address those concerns adequately. Energy development is a difficult decision for regulators as they balance the need for energy, private property rights and impacts to surrounding areas. This proposed law is not merely a decision about wind power, but precedence setting as the Committee will decide what landowners can develop on their on property that others may not want to see from their land or other public lands.

I am not aware of another industry facing that regulatory hurdle. Besides the additional cost of a subjective study is another barrier to business development in Maine and has the potential to create further project delays. The proposed 15 miles radius will set the stage for most projects to be subject to the additional regulations, sending yet another clear message to potential investors that Maine is not interested in wind energy development. I don't believe the majority of people in Maine support measures that would result in fewer opportunities for Maine workers and clean energy development. I urge you to reject the additional language and vote NO on LD 901. Thank you.