

Testimony of
Ben Gilman for
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce
In opposition to
*L.D. 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*

March 23, 2017

Senator Saviello, Representative Tucker, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Ben Gilman and I represent the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, a statewide business organization made up of both large and small businesses, here to provide you with our testimony in opposition to **L.D. 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*.

Over the course of the last ten years, the renewable energy industry has been the leading investor in the State of Maine. Specifically, the wind industry has invested more than one billion into the Maine economy over that time frame. During our recent economic downturn this has been an important part of the Maine economy. Part of the reason for this increased investment was due to the regulatory environment put into place by the legislature. One of the keys of having the expedited process in place is to have consistency and reliability in our development regulations. LD 901 proposes to change these dramatically to a subjective standard that will lead to less economic investment in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our testimony. I would be pleased to try and answer any questions you may have.