

COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
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**Commissioners:**

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**County Manager:**

Betsy Fitzgerald  
**Administrative Secretary:**  
Carla J. R. Manchester

March 22, 2017

Senator Saviello, Representative Tucker and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

I am writing today on behalf of the Washington County Commissioners who wish to express great concerns regarding **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.**

While perhaps well intentioned, the legislation would extend the viewing reach of a project from 8 to 15 miles of scenic resources of state or national significance. In a state with broad expanses of ocean, this could have serious ramifications for inland projects.

Washington County is home to the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge as part of Acadia National Park. The concern is that this bill could limit/restrict good projects in Washington County that fall within the mileage parameters of the Refuge.

The Commissioners are concerned that LD 901 could be overly restrictive.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this position on behalf of the Washington County Commissioners.

Betsy Fitzgerald  
County Manager