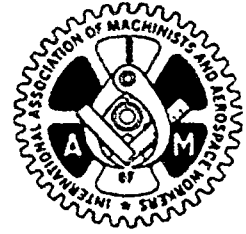


## Maine Lobstering Union-Local 207

150 Bar Harbor Rd  
Trenton, ME 04605



Good Afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and Honorable members of the Committee

My name is Virginia Olsen I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation commercial lobsterman and I represent fishermen with the Maine lobstering Union through District 4 of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers

We are in support of LD 1895 "An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources "

While as fishermen we generally agree on three things

- 1 Price of lobster is too low
- 2 Price of bait and fuel are too high
- 3 We don't agree on anything else

Offshore wind has done what no group, association, or union could do It united us all We can now add four to the list

- 4 Fishermen do not support offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine

What we can do is advocate for the most responsible siting of offshore wind A vote for this procurement bill protects Lobster Management Area 1(LMA 1) which is the footprint of the Maine lobster fishery Our fishery goes out about 45 nautical miles and is separated into 7 zones A-G It is true that the majority of Maine fishermen harvest from state waters however, it is our federal fishery that accounts for the lion's share of our fisheries landings or the largest portion of our catch 94% of the lobster landed in the United States comes from the Gulf of Maine It would be completely irresponsible to site commercial offshore wind inside LMA 1 The Gulf of Maine is one of the most productive bodies of water in the world, and it is actively feeding the nation Maine is home to a variety of species- Halibut, Tuna, Flounder, Redfish, Black Sea Bass, Monkfish, Mackerel, Rock and Sand Crab, Mussels, Hardshell and Softshell Clams, Oysters, Scallops, conchs, squid, and a whole list of sea vegetables just to list a few Now we need the ocean to harvest these species- we are not going to set traps in Sebago Lake, but you can 100% put wind turbines on land and not displace us Do we like this? Absolutely not Do we have control of leasing in federal waters? Absolutely not Incentivizing leases outside LMA 1 is the best shot we have at protecting the heritage fisheries so many of us have grown up doing and still wish to pass down for generations to come These fisheries inject vital revenues into our coastal towns and keep them year-round communities

To protect the fishery, we cannot table this bill We need to say clearly that we value and will protect our states resources by siting commercial Offshore Wind outside LMA 1 We will stand beside our fishing industry and together we will all give a little to make Maine's energy goals a reality and still protect the heritage fishery that has served our state and been its identity for generations- Lets all hope it will be for generations to come

Thank you for your time, I am happy to answer any questions