



March 28, 2013

Senator John Cleveland, Chair
Representative Barry Hobbins, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

RE: Testimony in Opposition to LD 616, “An Act to Amend the Expedited Permitting Area for Wind Energy Development under the Jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission”

Chairman Cleveland, Chairman Hobbins, members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee, my name is Jeremy Payne and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable power producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. MREA members manufacture electricity in a sustainable manner from hydro, biomass, wind, tidal, and waste to energy.

The MREA is opposed to LD 616 due to the fact it specifically targets two known wind development project areas: Iberdrola Renewables’ Fletcher Mountain development; and Independence Wind’s Highland Plantation development. The bill proposes to remove several townships and plantations from the Expedited Permitting Area, but, notably, offers no justification for doing so.

These aforementioned project development companies have invested pre-development dollars – on the order of hundreds of thousands of dollars – in response to the Legislature’s policy signal that these areas were designated as appropriate for wind project development.

The existing regulatory review processes at the local and state level are sufficient to allow those concerned with these locations to state their case without short-circuiting the application reviews. Additionally, removing these townships and plantations will likely deprive private landowners the opportunity to benefit from a new revenue stream: leasing payments from wind development companies.

We respectfully urge you to vote ought not to pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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