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**TESTIMONY OF PATRICK WOODCOCK
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**L.D. 828 – An Act To Improve Regulatory Consistency within the Jurisdiction of the Maine
Land Use Planning Commission**

Senator Edgecomb, Representative Hickman, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of L.D. 828.

The Energy Office has long viewed the failure to include a method for unorganized territories to be removed from the expedited wind permitting zones as a glaring oversight in the Wind Energy Act. Recommendation number eleven from the 2012 report, "Maine Wind Energy Development Assessment," states the following:

"The existing wind law provides for capability of adding areas to the expedited process but does not include a provision for areas to be removed from the designated expedited permitted areas. It is recommended that the provisions of the wind law be modified to allow areas to be removed from the EPA."

Since the report was issued there has been no action from the Legislature to create a process for areas to be considered for removal. Representative Dunphy's legislation would establish a mechanism in a manner that would be least disruptive to the permitting process by establishing a "provisional" designation for existing zones as the LUPC works through a process where it listens to the public about where wind facilities should be expedited. This would be quite an undertaking for the LUPC, but our citizens in the unorganized territories deserve to be heard.

Finally, the Energy Office will comment that L.D. 791 would empower landowners to fully control the decision of being within an expedited wind permitting area. For all intents and purposes it is unlikely that this would change any permitting designation. We oppose the legislation.