

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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I live in Bangor and I am self-employed

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The Appalachian Trail was cleared through the wild-lands of the State of Maine during the 1930s. Since 1935, members of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club have dedicated them selves to constructing, maintaining and protecting the Appalachian Trail from Grafton Notch to Katahdin. During 2016, more than 400 people were a part of this effort.

My first experience working on the Appalachian Trail was in 1972 with my college outing club when I spent a week swinging an axe to clear a new route for the AT near Rangeley. This turned into a lifelong interest.

Through a historic agreement in 1984 with the National Park Service, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club assumed management of Maine's second National Park.

Since the recent arrival of wind power projects in Maine, we have had a chance to learn about this new type of development. The list of viewpoints included in LD 901 is very worthy of additional visual review.

My personal discovery came two years ago. When the “Record Hill” project was initiated in the town of Roxbury, I was told that it would be too far away to have significant visual impact of the Appalachian Trail. As I climbed above the tree-line on Baldpate Mountain on a clear June day, I was surprised to see so many large wind towers so close by. What had been portrayed in imagination and simulation was very different from reality.

It is with a sincere level of responsibility for and commitment to the Appalachian Trail that I urge committee members to pass 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

The Maine Appalachian Trail Club is Pro-Appalachian Trail, not anti-wind power.

LD 901 is an effort to improve the Maine Wind Energy Act of 2008. It is not directed at excluding wind development nearby our scenic areas. It aims to take what we have learned and show additional consideration to these special areas.

Thank you