

**To: David Flanagan
Beth Nagusky**

From: Jeremy Payne, Executive Director, Independent Energy Producers of Maine

Re: Grid Access, Transmission, and Utility Incentives – Subcommittee #3

Below is a list of possible ideas for the OETF subcommittee to discuss and consider. IEPM is not endorsing this list of ideas as an organization. These are my individual ideas I am putting forward based on various discussions I have had with those involved in the renewable power industry.

- Availability of federal stimulus funding for development of projects through Maine’s Energy Future Committee proposed “Federal Energy Reserves Account.” (see attachment for proposed language in LD 556)
- Governor’s bond package creating a revolving loan fund to further the development of renewable power – with a portion specifically set aside for ocean energy. [How much to set aside really depends on what the priorities are]

Also, the Obama Administration’s Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) could serve as a guide for how to implement such a program, what qualifies, on what terms, with which lenders, etc.

- Energy Investment Tax Credit – providing tax credits to those companies that establish renewable/ocean energy manufacturing plants in Maine, or commit to using Maine-based workforce for a percentage of their work. [This is contentious, and likely a hot button issue since it could potentially eliminate the most qualified workforce for a project if a company is mandated to utilize Maine workers]
- Direct University of Maine (and others, e.g. GMRI) to serve as a resource for the ocean energy industry. Providing their research on a publicly available database (online capable), to encourage competition for access to Maine’s coast. This type of public information could potentially eliminate costly delays and research currently required of developers considering Maine as a location for their project.

- Local/host communities should be identified for a pilot project (or projects), to showcase the state as a destination for renewable development dollars. Visit this link for information on Denmark's off-shore wind farm in Blavandshuk, survey completed on attitudes of host community residents -- <http://www.ens.dk/sw42952.asp>. (Or see attachment)
- Tourist attraction potential of hosting ocean energy projects (local economic driver). For example, the Sierra Clubs of Hawaii and California both offer hikes through trails including stops at wind farms along the way. See attachments for positive impacts on Denmark's tourist industry and related coastal property values in host communities.
- Expand the expedited permitting area of the Governor's Task Force on Wind Energy Development to include off-shore wind. As former Governor King recommended, pre-permit the site/sites and create a one-stop shop permitting process.
- The State of New Hampshire has a one-stop shop permitting process administered by the Site Evaluation Committee ("SEC"). The SEC is chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Service, and its membership includes 13 others (see attachments). Projects over 30MW are automatically reviewed by the SEC, and have an 8 month track for renewable projects as mandated by SB 141 (reduced from a 12 month timeline). Projects under 30MW can petition to have the SEC administer the permitting process if the town so decides. The decisions of the SEC supersede local jurisdiction. They must hold at least one (and generally many more) public meeting in the host community.