

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Dan Brouillette
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Brouillette:

We write in support of the grant applications submitted by the University of Maine (UMaine) and its project partners in response to the Department of Energy (DOE) funding opportunity (DE-FOA-0002234) for the establishment of an Atlantic region marine energy research and testing center. The goal of this project is to establish a new Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC) and to invest in research activities, testing infrastructure, and innovative projects that will provide long term and impactful support to the emerging marine energy industry.

UMaine has submitted applications for two AMEC proposals. One of the proposals led by Florida Atlantic University, which is home to the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, is titled *Atlantic Marine Energy Center*. The second proposal is led by the Virginia Institute of Technology and is titled *Atlantic Marine Energy Center, Empower Marine Renewable Energy and the Blue Economy in the Eastern U.S. and Nationwide*.

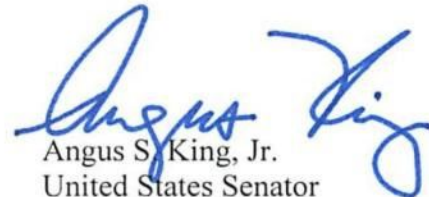
UMaine's offshore energy laboratories, structural testing capabilities, and offshore ocean test sites are well established and very active in supporting national leading ocean energy research and development. Boasting the largest laboratory on the East Coast focused on ocean energy, UMaine would be the ideal participant in the establishment of this marine energy center. With opportunities for further developing wave and tidal energy in the Atlantic seaboard off the coast of Maine, UMaine provides a logical, strategic advantage to the goals of the AMEC. Maine's vibrant marine economy and infrastructure would also assist and benefit from the access to these facilities as new industries emerge, enhancing the future development of clean energy economic opportunities across the nation.

Thank you for your time on behalf of UMaine and its project partners. We request the Department of Energy's careful consideration of these proposals, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator