

## LD 911

### “An Act Concerning the Review of Certain Projects Under the Site Location of Development Law”

The bill updates the scenic impact provisions of the law governing expedited permitting of grid-scale wind energy development enacted in 2008.

- Increases from 8 miles to 15 miles the jurisdictional distance limit for evaluating visual impacts to legislatively designated scenic resources of state or national significance.
- Requires consideration of a wind development’s cumulative visual impact

**Will not stop wind power development:** 50% of Maine’s current wind power capacity was erected without the benefit of the 2008 expedited wind law – since the 2008 law went into effect, wind projects have been approved within the 8 mile visual impact evaluation distance.

**Contains no new prohibitions:** LD 911 does require consideration of the cumulative impact of multiple projects (see map on reverse side) but does not change the standards by which visual impacts would be evaluated or the legal standard of “unreasonable adverse effect”.

**Balances energy development & scenic resources:** The 125th Legislature’s resolve directed the Governor’s energy office to assess the 2008 Wind Energy Act. The resulting 2012 study recommended the 15-mile standard option with provisions for scenic impact evaluations to be considered at even greater distances. The idea that wind turbines should be considered legally invisible beyond 8 miles is no longer justifiable.

**Reflects the larger turbines in today’s wind projects, since the 2008 wind law:**

