

# Did Angus King get it all wrong?

Remember when former governor King told us that Maine was the Saudi Arabia of wind? Maine was going to strike it rich. Our future was secure. He made it all sound so good.

Was Angus right about Maine's Saudi connection? Is Maine wind rich or was it all hype?

No offense to now Senator King, but Maine has never been and never will be the Saudi Arabia, or the Kuwait, or the Qatar of wind. How do we know his claim was misguided?

That's easy. The U.S Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) provide the best stats to refute Angus's claims. According to NREL's wind resources map, Maine's onshore winds are poor and unreliable. In addition, The Energy Information Administration report for 2013 pegs Maine's wind projects, on average, produced 25% of their capacity. The other 75% of the time they're buying power from the grid so they won't seize up and to keep those annoying red lights flashing atop their 450 foot towers.

In fact, Maine's wind farms are so unreliable, that New England's grid operator (ISO New England) keeps oil and gas-fired turbines running in reserve, consuming millions of gallons of fuel, ready to kick-in at a moment's notice when the wind stops blowing (if it blows at all).

So, if it takes all that gas and oil to keep Maine's wind farms running then maybe that's what Senator King meant when he promoted Maine's Saudi Arabia connection. It sure wasn't our wind.

To learn the truth about wind power in Maine, go to:

**[www.SavingMaine.org](http://www.SavingMaine.org)**

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