

December 11, 2013

Dear President Obama:

As environmentalists, conservationists, public health advocates, businesses, faith groups, and local and state officials representing hundreds of thousands of citizens along the Atlantic coast, we urge you to redouble Administrative support for offshore wind energy. Swift action is urgently needed to tap this low-carbon, plentiful American resource. Despite significant recent progress, there are still no wind energy projects off our coasts. Your continued leadership is essential to prioritize the development of pollution-free offshore wind power so that America can begin reaping its significant environmental and economic benefits.

In your Climate Action Plan unveiled in June, you stressed the urgent need to ramp up domestic development of clean, renewable energy – including a commitment to double the amount of renewable energy generated on federally controlled land and waters. Offshore wind power offers a critical opportunity to meet this goal and achieve our nation’s environmental and energy objectives. Over 4,000 Gigawatts (GW) – four times the amount of electricity currently generated in America – of offshore wind energy generation potential has been identified along our coastlines. Along the Atlantic coast alone, there is an estimated 1,300 GW of energy generation potential – enough to power 85 million American homes and reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking over 100 million cars off the road. ***Harnessing this massive domestic energy source is a key piece of the strategy for cutting carbon pollution and moving America towards a clean energy economy.***

America is at a turning point in our pursuit of offshore wind power. The Department of the Interior (DOI) recently held the nation’s first competitive auctions for offshore wind energy leases off the coasts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Virginia - areas that collectively could power 1.7 million homes. The leasing process is also moving forward off the coasts of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and North Carolina. And perhaps most significantly, America’s first offshore wind projects – Cape Wind in Massachusetts and the Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island – are on track to begin the construction process before the end of the year.

In order to build on this progress and ensure America finally reaches this next clean energy frontier, we call on your Administration to:

- ***Set a bold goal for offshore wind development in the Atlantic***, consistent with the Department of Energy’s (DOE) current goal of 54 GW by 2030.
- ***Support critical investments in offshore wind power*** including federal incentives and support for federal research, development, and deployment programs at both DOI and DOE.
- ***Spur markets for offshore wind power***, through power purchase commitments and collaboration among key agencies including the federal Departments of Defense, Energy, and Commerce with state and regional economic development and energy agencies.
- ***Ensure that offshore wind projects are sited, built, and operated responsibly*** in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate conflicts with marine life and other ocean uses. Wind energy development should be consistent with the National Ocean Policy and key state and regional planning efforts.

We thank you for your support and leadership to date and stand ready to work with you to advance offshore wind power and help put America on a path to a truly clean energy future.

Cc: Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz
Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Tommy Beaudreau
U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr.
National Ocean & Atmospheric Administration Acting Administrator Kathryn Sullivan

Signed,

National/Regional

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Appalachian Voices
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Clean Air Carolina
Clean Water Action
Conservation Law Foundation
Earth Day Network
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Environment America
Food & Water Watch
Global Green USA
Healthcare Without Harm
International Forum on Globalization
Interfaith Power and Light
League of Conservation Voters
Money Out Voters In Coalition
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Oceana
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southern Environmental Law Center
Toxics Action Center
Union of Concerned Scientists
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Voices for Progress

Connecticut

Clean Water Action Connecticut Chapter
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Environment Connecticut
Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter

Delaware

Delaware Nature Society
Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Georgia

100 Miles
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Coastal Georgia Charter Fishing
Environment Georgia
Fall-Line Alliance for a Clean Environment
Georgia Interfaith Power & Light
Georgia River Network
Georgia WAND
Greenlaw
Hildreth Charters
Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island
Miss Judy Charters
Morningstar Marinas
Ogeechee River Canoe and Kayak Rental
Savannah Riverkeeper
Sierra Club Georgia Chapter
State Representative Bob Bryant
State Representative Ron Stephens

Maine

Environment Maine
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Maine Aqua Ventus
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Interfaith Power and Light
Maine Ocean & Wind Industry Initiative
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Sierra Club
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Product Policy Institute
ReVision Energy
Sierra Club Maine Chapter

Maryland

Assateague Coastal Trust
Center for a Livable Future
Clean Currents Inc.
Environment Maryland
Interfaith Power and Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
League of Women Voters Maryland
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
State Delegate Ariana Kelly
State Delegate Tom Hucker
Terra Logos

Massachusetts

Aeronautica Windpower, LLC
Atlantic Alternative Power
Atlantic Design Engineers
Associated Energy Developers
CCI Energy LLC
Cape & Islands Self-Reliance
Environment Massachusetts
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Glynn Electric
Green Decade Newton
Groundwork Somerville
HealthLink
K2 Management
Mass Audubon
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance
Meridian Associates
Neo Virtus Engineering
Northeast Wind
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association
Spire Solar Systems
Stay Ahead Instrumentation
Sustainable New Energy
Sustainable Winchester
Viewpoint Sign and Awning

New Hampshire

Environment New Hampshire
Green Alliance
Mountain Corporation
New Hampshire Sierra Club
New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association
Seacoast Anti-Pollution League
Seacoast Area Renewable Energy Initiative
State Representative Peter B. Schmidt

New Jersey

Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions
Buse for Progress
ClimateMama
Environment New Jersey
GreenFaith
New Jersey Environmental Federation
New Jersey Sierra Club
New Jersey Sustainable Collegiate Partners
NJFREE

Reverend Fletcher Harper
Secaucus Environmental Committee
State Assemblymember Angel Fuentes
State Assemblymember Gilbert Wilson
State Assemblymember Upendra Chivakula
State Senator Bob Gordon, Democratic Conference Chair
State Senator Bob Smith, Environment and Energy Committee Chair
State Senator Donald Norcross, Law and Public Safety Committee Chair
State Senator Linda Greenstein
State Senator Loretta Weinburg
State Senator Shirley Turner
State Senator Stephen M Sweeney
State Senator Tom Kean, Jr.
State Senator-elect Peter Barnes

New York

Arthur Kopelman, Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island
Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Catskill Mountainkeepers
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Earthkind Solar Energy
Environment New York
Environmental Advocates of New York
Mercury Poisoning Project
New York City Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility
New York Interfaith Power & Light
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Power Authority
Pace Energy and Climate Center
Renewable Energy Long Island
Sustainable Tompkins
State Assemblymember Alan Maisel
State Assemblymember Amy Paulin
State Assemblymember Andrew Hevesi
State Assemblymember David Weprin
State Assemblymember Harvey Weisenberg
State Assemblymember James Skoufis
State Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz
State Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal
State Assemblymember Margaret Markey
State Assemblymember Marcos Crespo
State Assemblymember Michael G. Miller
State Assemblymember Robert Sweeney
State Assemblymember Steve Englebright
State Assemblymember Vivian Cook
State Assemblymember William Colton
State Assemblymember William Scarborough

State Senator Jose M. Serrano
Stony Brook Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center
WESPAC Foundation Inc.

North Carolina

Aussie Island Surf Shop
Back Alley Bikes
Beach Home Inspections
BN Design
Cypress Moon
Digitaurus Inc
Environment North Carolina
Island Thyme Cooking Co
Personal Empowerment
Lindley Farms Creamery
North Carolina Conservation Network
North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
Outer Banks Brewing Station
State Representative Pricey Harrison
State Representative Carla Cunningham
State Representative Grier Martin
State Representative Paul Luebke
State Representative Verla Insko
State Representative Rick Glazier
State Representative Darren Jackson
State Representative Deb McManus
State Representative Susan Fisher
State Representative Verla Insko
Trolley Stop Hot Dogs
Turner Printing Services
Whalebone Surf Shop

Oregon

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

Rhode Island

Apeiron Institute for Sustainable Living
Appalachian Mountain Club, RI Chapter
Central Congregational Church
Citizens Climate Lobby, RI Chapter
empower Brown
Environment Rhode Island
Environment Council of Rhode Island
Fossil Free RI
Kathy Jellison, former RI Woman of the Year
People's Power & Light of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Clean Water Action

Rhode Island State Nurses Association
Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition
Salve Regina Environmental Club
Sierra Club of Rhode Island
State Representative Edith Ajello
State Representative Art Handy
State Senator David Bates

South Carolina

South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance

Vermont

Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Vermont Natural Resources Council

Virginia

Central Virginia Wind Energy
Environment Virginia
Old Mill Power Company
Wild Virginia
350 Central Virginia
Commonwealth Sustainability Works
Herndon Environmental Network
State Delegate David Bulova
State Delegate Mark Sickles
State Delegate Rob Krupicka
State Delegate Robert Brink
State Delegate Vivian Watts
TerraScapes Environmental
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia New Majority
Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
Virginia League of Conservation Voters