

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Golden  
House Chair, Joint Committee on  
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy  
24 Beacon Street, Room 473B  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Barrett  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on  
Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy  
24 Beacon Street, Room 109-D  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: Legislation regarding offshore wind energy**

Dear Chairman Golden, Chairman Barrett, and members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our thousands of members and supporters across the Commonwealth, we write to express our support for portions of offshore wind energy-related legislation under your consideration. Massachusetts led the nation in 2016 with the passage of *An Act relative to energy diversity*, establishing the largest offshore wind power commitment to date and sparking a series of large-scale commitments in states across the region. We thank you for your visionary leadership at that time and urge you to keep the Commonwealth at the forefront of this potentially transformative endeavor.

Despite doubling our offshore wind power commitment to 3,200 megawatts (MW) in 2019, Massachusetts now ranks third in scale, behind New York (9,000 MW) and New Jersey (3,500 MW), with both states already moving forward on their first phase of projects. By enacting the measures listed below, the Commonwealth will be on track to advance responsibly developed offshore wind power at a scale more in line with our climate and energy challenges, and will send a clear signal to the offshore wind industry that Massachusetts offers a long-term market opportunity.

To unleash the environmental and economic benefits of offshore wind power:

- Massachusetts should increase its offshore wind power goal by 2,800 MW, to a total of 6,000 MW – enough to power three million homes – as proposed in H.2802, S.2005, and S.2010;
- Offshore wind project solicitations should occur at a minimum of once every 12 months, as proposed in H.2867;
- Massachusetts should work with all New England states to consider the potential for an additional 6,000 MW regional procurement, as proposed in H.2920; and
- The procurement process should be made more transparent by addressing and seeking to eliminate the influence that is enabled by the corporate relationships between bidders and those evaluating and selecting bids, as proposed in H.2922.

In addition to the specific provisions detailed above, we urge you to consider strengthening the Commonwealth's attention to ensuring that as offshore wind power develops, strong environmental protections and labor requirements are in place every step of the way. Specifically, it is critical that all projects:

- Demonstrate a commitment to employing best management practices as informed by the latest science, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife and natural resources; and
- Achieve high-quality employment by utilizing project labor agreements for construction, committing to procure domestic content to establish and build the local supply chain, and reaching community benefits agreements designed with organized labor and local community organizations that include local hiring.

If incorporated in full, these measures will position Massachusetts to launch a vibrant, enduring, and responsible offshore wind power industry. An investment at this scale and pace will result in significant progress toward the Commonwealth’s emission-reduction requirements, create thousands of long-term, high-quality jobs, and finally seize the untapped and inexhaustible clean energy opportunity off our shores.

We appreciate your leadership and your attention to offshore wind power to date, and we look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to ensure we maintain momentum toward the clean energy future within reach.

Sincerely,

Amber Hewett  
**National Wildlife Federation**

Eric Wilkinson  
**Environmental League of Massachusetts**

Jack Clarke  
**Mass Audubon**

John Rogers  
**Union of Concerned Scientists**

Caitlin Peale Sloan  
**Conservation Law Foundation**

Hillary Bright  
**BlueGreen Alliance**

Craig S. Altemose  
**350 Massachusetts**

Don Keeran  
**Association to Preserve Cape Cod**

Deb Pasternak  
David Zeek  
**Sierra Club Massachusetts**

Susan Helms Daley  
**Mothers Out Front**

Claire Miller  
**Toxics Action Center Campaigns**

Jane Winn  
**Berkshire Environmental Action Team**

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin  
**Southcoast Energy Challenge**

Patricia A. Gozemba  
Cindy Keegan  
**SAFE (Salem Alliance for the Environment)**

Rosemary Wessel  
**No Fracked Gas in Mass**

Birgitta McAlevey  
**No Sharon Gas Pipeline | Clean Energy Now**

Megan Amsler  
**Self-Reliance Corporation**

Jennifer Wexler  
**Canton Residents for a Sustainable,  
Equitable Future**

James O. Michel  
**Boston Clean Energy Coalition**

Jenny Daniell  
**Climate Action Now**

Ben Hellerstein  
**Environment Massachusetts**

Rick Lent  
**Elders Climate Action**

Elizabeth Saunders  
**Clean Water Action**

Deborah Donovan  
**Acadia Center**