

August 12, 2020

The Honorable Michael Barrett  
24 Beacon Street, Room 109-D  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Cynthia Creem  
24 Beacon Street, Room 312-A  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Patrick O'Connor  
24 Beacon Street, Room 419  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Tom Golden  
24 Beacon Street, Room 473B  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Patricia Haddad  
24 Beacon Street, Room 370  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Bradley Jones, Jr.  
24 Beacon Street, Room 124  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: Offshore wind amendments to S.2500 An Act setting next-generation climate policy and H.4933 An Act creating a 2050 roadmap to a clean and thriving commonwealth**

Dear Senator Barrett, Senator Creem, Senator O'Connor, Representative Golden, Representative Haddad, and Representative Jones:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our thousands of members and supporters across the Commonwealth, we write to express our support for the offshore wind energy-related amendments to *S.2500 An Act setting next generation climate policy* and *H.4933 An Act creating a 2050 roadmap to a clean and thriving commonwealth*, under your consideration in conference.

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 inspiring a series of large-scale commitments in states across the region. As neighboring states eclipse our goals and set faster timelines, we urge you to take this opportunity to help keep the Commonwealth at the forefront of this burgeoning national industry.

Despite doubling our offshore wind power commitment to 3,200 megawatts (MW) in 2019, Massachusetts now ranks fourth in scale, behind New York (9,000 MW), New Jersey (7,500 MW) – with both states advancing projects and preparing to issue their second solicitations – and Virginia (5,200 MW), which just installed the nation's first two turbines in federal waters. 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, public health, and economic benefits of offshore wind power, we call on this conference committee to advance a final bill that will:

- [As was passed by the Senate on July 29, 2020] Increase the Commonwealth's offshore wind power goal by 2,800 MW, to a total of 6,000 MW – enough to power over three million homes and sustain thousands of jobs; and
- [As was passed by the House on July 31, 2020] Accelerate the occurrence of offshore wind solicitations to a minimum of once every 18 months.

In addition to the provisions already under consideration, we urge you to strengthen 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 that engage organized labor and local community organizations, and 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 heightened 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**

Don Keeran  
**Association to Preserve Cape Cod**

David Zeek  
**Massachusetts Sierra Club**

Caitlin Peale Sloan  
**Conservation Law Foundation**

Sarah Dooling  
**Massachusetts Climate Action Network**

Susan Helms Daley & D.S. Backer  
**Mothers Out Front**

Michael Cusher  
**Mass Audubon**

Hillary Bright  
**BlueGreen Alliance**

Susannah Hatch  
**Environmental League of Massachusetts**

Deborah Donovan  
**Acadia Center**

John Rogers  
**Union of Concerned Scientists**