



January 11, 2022

Representative Jeffrey N. Roy, Chair
 Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
 24 Beacon Street
 Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael J. Barrett, Chair
 Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
 24 Beacon Street
 Boston, MA 02133

RE: H.4204 An Act to power Massachusetts’s clean energy economy

Dear Chair Roy and Chair Barrett,

The undersigned organizations, as advocates for the responsible development of offshore wind power, are grateful for the opportunity **to support H.4204 – An Act to power Massachusetts’s clean energy economy**. This bill is aligned with several of the recommendations put forth in *The State of Offshore Wind in Massachusetts* report which we support, including driving increased investment, removing the “price cap,” and incentivizing economic development.

We support:

- A \$750 million Clean Energy Investment Fund to be administered by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). While these funds are not exclusive to offshore wind, we are encouraged that this bill recommends an additional \$250 million beyond what is proposed in the

aforementioned report and recognize that offshore wind, as the linchpin of the Commonwealth's decarbonization efforts, will play a large part;

- Increasing the authority of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to select the winning bidder(s), with distribution companies in a technical advisory role, which would help streamline the procurement process and be in line with other states; and
- The addition of opportunities for diversity, equity, and inclusion to the evaluation criteria. However, we recommend building on this language to codify and strengthen the economic inclusion language in the Commonwealth's most recent offshore wind solicitation, as outlined in H.3302 and S.2158. Doing so would increase equitable access to economic opportunity in offshore wind and build wealth in low-income communities and communities of color that have been historically under-served and overburdened by our energy system.

We oppose:

- The reduction of offshore wind procurement authority to 4,000 megawatts (MW) and the increased window between procurements to 24 months, which would roll back the legislature's efforts to increase offshore wind and speed up procurements. We must move forward with urgency to deploy responsibly developed offshore wind in order to meet our climate targets and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

We suggest improvements for:

- Remunerations: Granting remunerations to the distribution companies for offshore wind projects is an unnecessary and indefensible burden on ratepayers. We urge the elimination of this provision.
- Wildlife & Environment: As recommended in *The State of Offshore Wind in Massachusetts* report, Massachusetts must formalize fisheries and environmental working groups, require research and monitoring contributions of at least \$10,000 per megawatt, and strengthen language around required plans to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Economic Justice: Promoting local jobs and labor standards for offshore wind is essential. As we move to new sources of energy generation, we must facilitate a just transition by providing high-quality, family-sustaining jobs for under-served communities and impacted workers in manufacturing, construction, operations and maintenance, and in the development of port facilities, transmission and other associated infrastructure. We suggest that language is added to include criteria that guarantee local and family-sustaining wage job creation in both the construction of projects and through the supply chain.
- Municipal/Private Procurements: Driving additional procurements of offshore wind by municipalities, businesses, and large non-profit organizations, as outlined in H.3302 and S.2158, should be incentivized. These entities are key players in our decarbonization efforts and should be able to participate in procurements of offshore wind.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our thousands of members and supporters across Massachusetts, we thank you for your work to advance offshore wind power and to ensure that the Commonwealth maintains a leadership role in this industry.

We urge you to report H.4204 favorably. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susannah Hatch
Environmental League of Massachusetts

Amber Hewett
National Wildlife Federation

Jennifer Benson
The Alliance for Business Leadership

John Carlson
Ceres

David Zeek
Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter

Joe O'Brien
North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

Don Keeran
Association to Preserve Cape Cod

James Mulloy
350 Mass

Eben Bein
Our Climate

Winston Vaughan
Health Care Without Harm

Melissa Birchard
Acadia Center

Cindy Luppi
Clean Water Action

Patricia A. Gozemba & Cindy Keegan
Salem Alliance for the Environment

Michael Sales
Elders Climate Action – Massachusetts Chapter

John Drinkwater
Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Heather Takle
PowerOptions, Inc.

E. Heidi Ricci
Mass Audubon

Kai Salem
Green Energy Consumers Alliance

Jeff Barz-Snell
MetroWest Climate Solutions