

March 7th, 2011

Dear President Obama:

As environmentalists, conservationists, and clean energy advocates, we urge you to support the swift development of offshore wind along the Atlantic Seaboard while still ensuring strong environmental safeguards. We applaud the Administration's efforts to date to foster offshore wind development, as federal leadership is critical for advancing this homegrown clean energy source. For the sake of our environment and the hope of building a truly clean energy economy in America, we must see numerous wind farms spinning off our shores within the next few years – and we need your help to make that vision a reality.

Fossil fuel consumption represents the biggest threat to our environment, public health, and way of life. As such, we must move quickly away from fossil fuels and toward clean, efficient renewable energy. Such a transition will help protect our environment while creating good-paying jobs and moving our states and our nation toward energy independence. Vast, untapped offshore wind potential along the Atlantic coast can play an increasingly important role in getting our region and our nation off of fossil fuels. For nearly every Atlantic coastal state, offshore wind represents one of our best strategies to generate significant amounts of energy without creating more pollution. A bold commitment to clean energy such as offshore wind can significantly reduce air pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce the risk of oil and gas spills as well as other fossil fuel-related disasters.

We are calling on you and our state leaders to join forces for the orderly, environmentally-sound ramp up of offshore wind, while protecting the health of our ocean ecosystems.

Specifically, we ask that:

- A bold goal is set for offshore wind development in the Atlantic, in order to provide clear leadership and vision regarding the important role of offshore wind in America's energy future and to demonstrate that this is a high priority for the Administration.
- Federal agencies and state officials should coordinate to identify, with public input, high priority areas for offshore wind, and establish a clear and rational process to speed environmentally-responsible development of offshore wind farms off the Atlantic Coast. The "Smart from the Start" initiative by the Department of the Interior is a promising first step in this direction.
- When developing offshore wind farms or any other energy generating facility, federal agencies should create standards to protect the Atlantic Ocean's marine and coastal ecosystems by avoiding siting in important ecological areas and areas critical to sensitive species and minimizing and mitigating impacts to habitats and life stages needed to sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations.
- Offshore wind projects should be sited, constructed and operated in a way that seeks to avoid, minimize, and mitigate conflict with other uses, whether fishing,

recreation, or other renewable energy generation. Your recent Executive Order that establishes the National Ocean Policy, including the Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, offers a guide for promoting conservation, science-based decision making and coordination between federal agencies, states and all ocean users. Wind energy development should be coordinated with state and regional coastal and marine spatial planning efforts and be done in a manner that is consistent with the goals of your historic National Ocean Policy.

- All energy sources, including offshore wind, must be held to high environmental standards, and the permitting of offshore wind facilities should take into account the *benefits* to the environment from the proposed project.
- Federal financial investments to spur offshore wind development should continue to grow until this new technology is mature and well-established.

We stand ready to work with you and your administration to advance offshore wind to help put America on a path to a truly clean energy future. Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

National and Regional

American Lung Association of New England
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Citizen Partnership for Offshore Wind
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Clean Power Now
Clean Water Action
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Partners
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Earth Day Network
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Energy Consumer Alliance of New England
Environment America
Environment and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
Global Warming Education Network

GreenFaith
Greentrack Strategies
Interfaith Power and Light
League of Conservation Voters
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Conservancy
Oceana
Safe Climate Campaign
Sierra Club
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southern Energy Network
Southern Environmental Law Center
Surfrider Foundation
Terra-Scapes Environmental
Woods Hole Ocean Research Center

Maine

Environment Maine
Maine Interfaith Power and Light
Natural Resources Council of Maine

New Hampshire

Environment New Hampshire

Vermont

Vermont Natural Resources Council

Massachusetts

Boston Climate Action Network
Cape Islands Self-Reliance Corporation
Environment Massachusetts

Environmental League of Massachusetts
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers, Local 103
Massachusetts Audubon
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Council of Churches
Massachusetts League of Environmental
Voters

Rhode Island

Environment Council of Rhode Island
Rhode Island Interfaith Power and Light

Connecticut

Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Environment Connecticut

New York

Alliance for Clean Energy New York
Environment New York
Environmental Advocates of New York
Renewable Energy Long Island

New Jersey

American Jewish Committee of New
Jersey
Association of New Jersey
Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)
Atlantic County Utilities Authority
Byram Township Deputy Mayor Scott
Olson
Environment New Jersey
Grandmothers Mothers and More for
Energy Safety (GRAMMES)
Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
New Jersey Audubon Society
New Jersey Environmental Federation
New Jersey Highlands Coalition
New Jersey Work Environment Council
NJ Assemblyman John McKeon
NJ Assemblyman Samuel Thompson
NJ Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula
NJ Assemblywoman Connie Wagner
NJ Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver,
Speaker of the Assembly

NJ State Senator Barbara Buono, Senate
Majority Leader
NJ State Senator Loretta Weinberg
ResurgInt EcoLogical Sustainability
Consultants
Sierra Club, NJ Chapter
South Branch Watershed Association
Sustainable Highlands New Jersey
Upper Raritan Watershed Association

Pennsylvania

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future
(PennFuture)
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light

Delaware

Delaware Nature Society
Sierra Club Delaware Chapter

Maryland

Assateague Coastal Trust
Assateague Coastkeeper
Blue Water Baltimore
Environment Maryland
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland PIRG
Maryland-DC Audubon Society
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
Patuxent Riverkeeper
Queen Anne's Conservation Association

Washington, DC

Greater Washington Interfaith Power and
Light

Virginia

Environment Virginia
Green Jobs Alliance of Hampton Roads
Public Policy Virginia, Inc.
Sierra Club Virginia Chapter
Virginia Conservation Network

North Carolina

Albemarle Environmental Association
Cartaret County Cross Roads

Environment North Carolina
NC State Representative Pricey Harrison
NC State Representative Rick Glazier
NC State Representative Susan Fisher
North Carolina Conservation Network
North Carolina Interfaith Power and
Light
North Carolina League of Conservation
Voters
North Carolina Wildlife Federation
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation
Surf Rider Outer Banks Chapter

South Carolina

Audubon South Carolina
South Carolina Wildlife Federation

Tennessee

Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light

Georgia

Center for a Sustainable Coast
Environment Georgia
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
Georgia Wildlife Federation
Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island State
Park
Tybee Island City Councilman Paul
Wolff
Other States
Greater Washington Interfaith Power and
Light
Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light
Vermont Natural Resources Council

Florida

Environment Florida
Florida Conservation Alliance
Florida Wildlife Federation