

**Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions • Clean Water Action •  
Environment New Jersey • NJ Work Environment Council • National Wildlife Federation •  
Natural Resources Defense Council • New Jersey Audubon • New Jersey Sustainable Business Council  
Sierra Club • The Nature Conservancy, NJ Chapter • David Pringle Associates LLC**

September 16, 2019

Joseph L. Fiordaliso, President  
State of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 314  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear President Fiordaliso,

On behalf of the undersigned groups representing hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans, we thank you and Governor Murphy for your committed leadership on offshore wind power and commend the recent actions taken to position New Jersey as a national leader in launching this new clean energy industry. Responsibly developed offshore wind power is New Jersey's golden opportunity to produce reliable, affordable clean electricity and create thousands of local jobs while protecting our people and wildlife from the urgent threat of climate change.

As New Jersey develops a new Energy Master Plan (EMP) to achieve 100% clean energy by 2050, we are pleased to see offshore wind power featured as a key strategy for meeting this laudable goal. Given the many benefits responsibly developed offshore wind power can deliver for our state's communities, wildlife, and economy, we support increasing the state's offshore wind goal to ensure this critically needed climate solution plays a major role in New Jersey's energy future.

This letter focuses specifically on offshore wind power, providing support for a larger policy commitment as well as general recommendations for how New Jersey can help ensure a successful launch of this new industry. We understand that the state is developing an Offshore Wind Strategic Plan as directed by Governor Murphy's Executive Order 8, and look forward to a further opportunity to comment in more detail on critical aspects of the New Jersey's strategy for reducing costs, maximizing job growth, and advancing a process that ensures natural resources are protected throughout the development and operational stages of offshore wind energy.

Our organizations offer the following comments and recommendations for the EMP to ensure offshore wind power rises to its full potential as a responsibly developed climate solution for New Jersey:

- **Increase the offshore wind goal to at least 7,000 MW by 2030** - As Section 2.2.1 of the EMP points out, "U.S. Department of Energy estimates the existing and proposed federal lease areas located off the coast of New Jersey could support up to 12.5 GW of offshore wind energy, using a very conservative power density ratio." New Jersey is well-positioned to develop much more offshore wind energy than our current target, increasing our opportunities to reap the many benefits of this energy source. Given recent state offshore wind policy developments around the region, it is becoming increasingly important to send a clear signal to the booming offshore wind industry regarding the scale of New Jersey's commitment in order to drive maximum investment to the Garden State.
- **Provide a clear, predictable procurement timeline** – To achieve a larger state offshore wind goal, we encourage the addition of more solicitations to New Jersey's current procurement schedule. The industry would be better prepared to invest locally with a detailed and predictable plan over a longer term, for example by continuing with biannual solicitations of at least 1,200MW starting in 2020 and continuing

through at least 2026. Setting regular, interim milestones along the way to 2050 will ensure that the program stays on course and achieves its long term goals. Further, a commitment that ensures a steady pipeline of offshore wind construction into 2030 and beyond will encourage developers, manufacturers, Tier 1 suppliers, and many other associated businesses to invest in the New Jersey offshore wind marketplace. Given the pace of regional offshore wind procurements along the coast, we also urge New Jersey to consider awarding multiple projects at a time in order to increase competition across the market and maximize the many benefits of this new industry.

- **Finalize a comprehensive Offshore Wind Strategic Plan that positions New Jersey for success** – In the Draft EMP, feedback is specifically requested regarding what “concerns or barriers must be addressed in developing this resource.” Given the many complexities involved in developing offshore wind power, including the many stakeholders and natural resources that could be impacted, this is exactly the right time to be asking this important question. The Draft EMP touches on several promising offshore wind initiatives that New Jersey is advancing – including Offshore Wind Tax Credits and the development of the NJ Supply Chain Registry (Section 2.2.2) as well as a workforce needs assessment and the establishment of NJ WIND Institute (Section 2.2.3). We eagerly await the release of the draft Offshore Wind Strategic Plan where we expect to see more detailed plans for these critical initiatives – as well as many others – needed to ensure a successful launch of offshore wind power for New Jersey. In particular, we strongly encourage New Jersey to follow the path of other leading offshore wind states and establish ongoing Working Groups of some form to ensure continued input and investment from experts and stakeholders on key topics (i.e. Environment, Fishing, Workforce Development, etc.) as offshore wind project selection and development activities unfold.

Thank you, again, for the tremendous progress you have made in making New Jersey once again a national leader in advancing responsibly developed offshore wind power, and we look forward to working together in the months and years to come to bring this essential climate change solution online.

Sincerely,

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