

June 4, 2018

Via E-mail

Commissioner Rob Klee
Deputy Commissioner Mary Sotos
Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection

RE: Procurement of Offshore Wind Pursuant to Public Acts 13-303, 15-107 and 17-144

Dear Commissioner Klee and Deputy Commissioner Sotos:

The undersigned organizations would like to thank the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) for considering offshore wind under the request for proposals (“RFP”) issued pursuant to Public Acts 13-303, 15-107 and 17-144. The undersigned represent a diverse group of interests, including clean energy advocates, environmental organizations, labor unions, and faith groups, all of whom support the responsible development of offshore wind resources. We are encouraged that DEEP has embraced offshore wind as a clean energy resource that can help meet the state’s electricity needs while generating economic benefits, and we urge DEEP to proceed with selecting a winning bid on schedule to bring this resource to the state, while ensuring that wildlife and natural resources are stringently protected every step of the way.

Offshore wind is a critical renewable energy technology that will enable Connecticut to reach its decarbonization requirements, including the newly established targets of a 45% reduction of greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions and a 40% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2030. Other Northeast states have already begun to embrace offshore wind to meet their GHG reduction targets – Massachusetts is required to procure 1,600 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind by 2027 and is in contract negotiations with Vineyard Wind for the first 800 MW, New York has committed 2,400 MW by 2030, New Jersey recently codified a commitment to 3,500 MW of offshore wind by 2030, and Rhode Island is advancing a 400 MW contract with Deepwater Wind. Acadia Center’s report [EnergyVision 2030](#) suggests that New England and New York need to build 6,400 MW of offshore wind by 2030 to meet a 45% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and Connecticut can play an essential role in meeting that target.

At the same time, offshore wind offers Connecticut and the region a tremendous opportunity to grow the clean energy economy. The offshore wind proposals Connecticut received through the RFP estimate hundreds of direct jobs will be created during project construction and about another thousand indirect jobs would be supported by this economic activity. With New London’s port proposed as an important work site for these projects, many of these jobs and the associated economic development will accrue to the state. A recent analysis of offshore wind in the U.S. for the Roadmap Project for Multi-State Cooperation on Offshore Wind showed that ambitious deployment (8,000 MW) could support over 36,000 full-time jobs annually, and establishment of Connecticut’s offshore wind industry will ensure the state is home to many of these future jobs as well.

We commend DEEP for embracing offshore wind in the RFP by allowing bidders to propose up to the maximum generation allowed under PA 17-144, or 3% of the state’s generation. And we are pleased to see that all the offshore wind bids submitted to DEEP proposed this maximum generation amount, with project sizes ranging from 190 MW to 200 MW. Considering the need to grow offshore wind to reduce emissions and expand the clean energy economy, we urge DEEP to proceed with selecting an offshore wind bid this June following the original RFP timeline. As Massachusetts and Rhode Island just announced the winning proposals in their RFP, Connecticut now has all the necessary details to make an informed decision regarding bids that were submitted with contingencies to the Massachusetts process.

By selecting offshore wind for its maximum share permitted by statute in the RFP, Connecticut can be on the leading edge of offshore wind development as the industry becomes established in the region, which will enhance the state's ability to capture a significant share of the economic benefits. To build off this momentum, we urge Connecticut to take the further step of setting a mandate for future offshore wind procurements that aligns with other states and shows a robust commitment to harnessing this critical clean energy industry as swiftly as responsible development allows.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue. We look forward to continued engagement with DEEP in the development of offshore wind power in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

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