June 24, 2022

The Honorable Jeffrey N. Roy - House Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
The Honorable Tackey Chan - House Chair, Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
The Honorable Bradley H. Jones, Jr. - House Minority Leader
The Honorable Michael J. Barrett - Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
The Honorable Cynthia S. Creem - Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr - Senate Minority Leader

Re: Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative: Comment on H. 4524/S.2842, An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy

Dear Honorable Members of the Conference Committee:

On behalf of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative and our supporters across our region, we appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on H.4524/S.2842, An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy. Rather than commenting on specific sections, we would like to provide some general input.

Prioritize the possible

Understanding the time is tight before the end of the session, we urge you and your colleagues to work swiftly to pass a bill that builds upon the Legislature’s strong position established with the 2050 Next Generation Roadmap and furthers the Commonwealth’s progress toward addressing the crisis posed by climate change. We are cognizant that the Roadmap involves many steps, and both the House and Senate bills contain important elements to further this green mandate. We encourage you to arrive at priorities that are within the possible for this session so that forward progress can continue.

Offshore wind

We are aware that there is a time sensitivity to the opportunities for the development of offshore wind, and encourage you to prioritize that, as competitive forces may inhibit the Commonwealth’s progress if it loses early-mover advantage.

Cape and Islands

As our focus is on Cape Cod and the Islands, where the impacts of climate change are experienced perhaps more dramatically than in many other parts of Massachusetts, we are keenly aware of the threat posed by inaction, and commend you on your efforts to further the expansion of offshore wind, the modernization of distribution and the work to mitigate greenhouse gasses and support adaptation to our changing environment. We ask that you recognize the unique position of the Cape and Islands in terms of vulnerability and opportunity and incorporate appropriate measures into the final bill.
Environmental Justice

Finally, and we acknowledge that you recognize this, it is essential that environmental justice be incorporated in all elements of the legislation.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing these critical issues and opportunities facing the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Delaney, Executive Director
Dorothy A. Savarese, President, Board of Directors

For the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative

cc: Senator Karen Spilka, Senate President
    Representative Ronald Mariano, Speaker of the House
    Senator Julian Cyr
    Senator Su Moran
    Representative Kip Diggs
    Representative Dylan Fernandes
    Representative Sarah Peake
    Representative David Vieira
    Representative Timothy Whelan
    Representative Steven Xiarchos