June 16, 2022

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR JOINT SOLICITATION FOR OFFSHORE WIND TRANSMISSION

Dear Governor Baker, Governor Lamont, Governor McKee, Governor Mills, Governor Scott, and Governor Sununu,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our thousands of members and supporters across New England, we write to express our strong support for a joint solicitation by the New England states for
transmission solutions to deliver offshore wind to the region. The economic and decarbonization potential of offshore wind for the region as a whole is astounding. We applaud your commitment to bringing the benefits of offshore wind to your states, as reflected to date by important offshore wind project solicitations, key investments in port infrastructure and supply chain, funding for research and workforce development, and essential stakeholder engagement.

Offshore wind is the single biggest lever we can pull to address the climate crisis, meet our energy needs, and grow our economy simultaneously. It is our best opportunity for new sources of renewable energy. New England boasts some of the best offshore wind resources in the country: we have enough offshore wind off our coast to power our regional grid as much as ten times over.¹ Offshore wind is a $100 billion industry waiting to happen. Harnessing its economic potential can drive economic growth by creating thousands of high-quality jobs, establishing our region as a hub for clean-tech development and deployment, and saving ratepayers billions of dollars.

Harnessing and delivering this abundant and free resource to power our homes and businesses requires new transmission investments. It is advantageous to pursue these investments jointly, so that the region as a whole may share in the benefits of offshore wind. Most importantly, we must act soon. Moving swiftly to capture the benefits of additional offshore wind for the region will enable the New England states to lead the race to an equitable clean energy economy while strengthening the reliability of the electric grid and securing valuable federal funds.

Careful consideration of offshore grid solutions to link and deliver New England’s offshore wind potential is particularly important. A recent Brattle Group study found that a well-planned offshore grid could provide substantial economic savings in comparison to onshore only transmission solutions and would reduce impacts to fisheries and the environment while improving technical efficiencies.² The current time-consuming approach of investing in one-off transmission lines on an ad-hoc rather than planned basis, which is already being scrutinized for nation-wide reform by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, could result in significantly higher overall financial, environmental, and community impacts than a planned and well-coordinated regional solution like an offshore grid.

For these reasons, the undersigned organizations write to urge you to act now to secure the maximum potential of offshore wind for the region by preparing a joint solicitation for transmission solutions, with a focus on proposals for efficient and cost-effective offshore grid solutions. We strongly support your efforts to achieve thriving New England communities and a more robust electric system through rapid, responsible action on offshore wind. We encourage these additional steps now to secure the region’s future without delay.

Sincerely,

Susannah Hatch, Regional Lead
New England for Offshore Wind

Melissa E. Birchard, Director, Clean Energy & Grid Reform
Acadia Center

¹ 2016 Offshore Wind Energy Resource Assessment for the United States; NREL; Technical Report NREL/TP-5000-66599
Mark Scully, President
People’s Action for Clean Energy

Elizabeth Turnbull-Henry, President
Environmental League of Massachusetts

Michelle Veasey, Executive Director
New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility

Eliza Donoghue, Director of Advocacy
Maine Audubon

Sam Evans-Brown, Executive Director
Clean Energy NH

Sherrie Trefry, Energy Market Leader
VHB

Steve Kropper, Partner
Skunk Works Fund

Paul Niedzwiecki,
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Manion, VP of Policy and Advocacy
Mass Audubon

Charles J. Rothenberger, Climate & Energy Attorney
Save the Sound

Bruce Ho, Deputy Director, Eastern Region, Climate & Clean Energy
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mark Walsh, Senior Vice President & New England Regional Director
Amalgamated Bank

Richard F. Delaney, Executive Director
Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative

Johanna Miller, Energy and Climate Program Director
Vermont Natural Resources Council

Hannah Birnbaum, Northeast Deputy Regional Director, Energy Campaigns
Sierra Club

Michael Sales
Elders Climate Action, Massachusetts Chapter
Susan Starkey, CO-chair  
_Faith Communities Environmental Network_

Carrie Katan, State Manager  
_Climate XChange_

Mireille Bejjani, Energy Justice Director  
_Community Action Works_

Jack Shapiro, Climate and Clean Energy Program Director  
_Natural Resources Council of Maine_

Christine A. Powell, Deputy Managing Attorney  
_Earthjustice_

Priscilla De La Cruz, Sr. Director of Government Affairs  
_Audubon Society of Rhode Island_

Heather Takle, President and CEO  
_PowerOptions_

Rob Werner, New Hampshire State Director  
_League of Conservation Voters_

Amber Hewett, Offshore Wind Energy Program Director  
_National Wildlife Federation_

John Carlson, Manager of State Policy  
_Ceres_

Pat Gozemba & Cindy Keegan, Co-Chairs  
_Salem Alliance for the Environment_

William D. Sedlack, Maine State Lead  
_Maine Conservation Voters_

Kai Salem, Policy Coordinator  
_Green Energy Consumers Alliance_

Cabell Eames, Political Director  
_350 Mass_

Lori Brown, Executive Director  
_Connecticut League of Conservation Voters_

Lauren Hierl, Executive Director  
_Vermont Conservation Voters_
New England for Offshore Wind members include: