



June 16, 2022

The Honorable Charlie Baker  
Governor of Massachusetts  
State House, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Ned Lamont  
Governor of Connecticut  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Daniel McKee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

The Honorable Janet Mills  
Governor of Maine  
1 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

The Honorable Phil Scott  
Governor of Vermont  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609

The Honorable Chris Sununu  
Governor of New Hampshire  
State House, 107 North Main St  
Concord, NH 03301

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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***

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<sup>1</sup> 2016 Offshore Wind Energy Resource Assessment for the United States; NREL; Technical Report NREL/TP-5000-66599

<sup>2</sup> Pfeifenberger, Johannes, "Offshore Wind Transmission: An Analysis of New England and New York Offshore Wind Integration, *The Brattle Group*, [https://brattlefiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/21229\\_offshore\\_wind\\_transmission\\_-\\_an\\_analysis\\_of\\_options\\_for\\_new\\_england\\_and\\_new\\_york\\_offshore\\_wind\\_integration.pdf](https://brattlefiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/21229_offshore_wind_transmission_-_an_analysis_of_options_for_new_england_and_new_york_offshore_wind_integration.pdf)

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 Kropfer, 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***

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan, President  
***League of Women Voters of Massachusetts***

Nick Krakoff, Staff Attorney  
***Conservation Law Foundation***

Joe O'Brian, Political Director  
***North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters***

Tim Burgess, Assistant Business Manager  
***International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 104***

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***<sup>i</sup> New England for Offshore Wind members include:***

350 MA, 350 New Hampshire, Acadia Center, Alliance for Business Leadership, Amalgamated Bank, Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Atrevida Science, Bemis Associates, Ben Hillman & Company, Berkshire Bank, Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA), BlueGreen Alliance, Boston Energy Wind Power Services Inc., Bristol Community College, Cape Cod 5, Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, Ceres, Clean Energy NH, Clean Water Action, Climate Action Now – Western MA, Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast, Climate XChange, Coalition for Social Justice, CT League of Conservation Voters, CT Sustainable Business Council, East Hampton CT Clean Energy Task Force, Eastern Bank, Eastern CT Green Action, Elders Climate Action - Massachusetts Chapter, Energy Efficiency Associates LLC, Environment America, Environmental Council of Rhode Island, Environmental League of Massachusetts, eWind Consultants, Faith Communities Environmental Network, Flashover LLC, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Green Newton, Greenwater Marine Sciences Offshore, Health Care Without Harm, Hollis Line Machine, Iron Workers Local 7, IUPAT DC11, Keuka Energy, Laotec US Inc., League of Conservation Voters, League of Women Voters Massachusetts, MA AFL-CIO, Maine Conservation Voters, Mass Audubon, MassMEP, MCAN, Mills Public Relations, MOCA Westport, Mothers Out Front, Muggventures, Nashoba Conservation Trust, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Council of Maine, New England Aquarium, NH Audubon, NH Businesses for Social Responsibility, NH Citizens for Progress, NH Environment Energy & Climate Network, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, People's Action for Clean Energy, Philip Conkling & Associates, PowerOptions, POWER-US | MA, Rangel Renewables, Revision Energy, Rhode Island Building Trades, Robert E Derecktor Inc, Salem Alliance for the Environment, Save the Sound, Seacoast Anti-Pollution League, Second Nature, Self-Reliance, Sierra Club, Skunk Works Fund, Turnstone, UMass Boston, UMass Lowell / Windstar, University of Maine, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vineyard Power Cooperative Inc.