

October 22, 2015

Dear President Obama:

As environmentalists, conservationists, public health advocates, businesses, faith groups, labor unions, and public officials representing hundreds of thousands of citizens along the Atlantic coast, we want to express our strong support for making offshore wind a key element in America's plan to reduce pollution and shift to clean energy. We were pleased to see your recent leadership in convening the White House Summit on Offshore Wind and commend these new efforts to promote collaboration between the states and federal agencies. We look forward to your continued leadership to ensure that America can begin reaping the significant environmental and economic benefits of this pollution-free energy source.

2015 marked a major milestone in America's pursuit of offshore wind power, with our first project finally under construction off of Rhode Island. We are counting on your leadership to ensure that the Block Island Wind Farm is truly the beginning of a new energy chapter for America – one that finally taps the massive clean energy source waiting just off our shores that has the capacity to transform the energy portfolios of states along the Atlantic coast.

The recently adopted Clean Power Plan, which emphasizes the importance of clean renewable energy, is the single biggest action our country has ever taken to confront climate change. But additional leadership is needed to maintain momentum and ensure that offshore wind power plays a major role in states' plans to reduce pollution and shift to clean energy.

Along the Atlantic coast alone, there is an estimated 1,300 GW of energy generation potential – enough to power 85 million American homes and reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking over 100 million cars off the road. Harnessing this massive domestic energy source must be a central component of America's strategy for cutting carbon pollution and moving the nation towards a clean energy economy. Increasing the amount of energy generated from clean, renewable sources such as offshore wind power will help protect public health and create American jobs. Supporting strong federal incentives for offshore wind power will help ensure that offshore wind energy is harnessed and developed to help Atlantic coast states successfully comply with the Clean Power Plan and move to a clean energy future.

We are encouraged by the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Smart from the Start initiative which has made significant progress in facilitating an efficient, environmentally responsible leasing process for offshore wind power. The seven federal Wind Energy Areas designated for offshore wind power collectively have the capacity to generate nearly 20 GW – enough to power over 6 million average U.S. homes. We look forward to seeing project proposals move forward in the areas that have currently been leased, and encourage the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to continue its efforts to auction

leases and identify new areas appropriate for wind power development off of additional states.

In order to build on this progress and ensure America finally reaches this next clean energy frontier, we call on your Administration to:

- Set a bold goal for offshore wind development in the Atlantic, consistent with 22 GW by 2030 scenario analyzed in the Department of Energy's (DOE) 2015 Wind Vision report.
- Increase collaboration with state governments to ensure an efficient offshore wind power leasing process that is coordinated with states' energy planning processes.
- Increase critical investments in offshore wind power, including federal incentives and support for federal research, development, and deployment programs at both DOI and DOE.
- Spur markets for offshore wind power, through power purchase commitments and collaboration among key agencies including the federal Departments of Defense, Energy, and Commerce and state and regional economic development and energy agencies.
- Ensure that offshore wind projects are sited, built, and operated responsibly in order to avoid, minimize, and mitigate conflicts with marine life and other ocean uses. Wind energy development should be consistent with the National Ocean Policy and key state and regional planning efforts.

We thank you for your support and leadership to date and stand ready to work with you to advance offshore wind power and help put America on a path to a truly clean energy future.

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Cc: Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz

Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy

Council on Environmental Quality Managing Director Christy Goldfuss

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Abigail Ross Hopper

U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Zunkunft

National Ocean & Atmospheric Administration Acting Administrator Kathryn Sullivan

Signed,

**National**

Climate Reality Project  
Environment America  
Environment and Energy Study Institute  
KyotoUSA  
Moms Clean Air Force  
National Wildlife Foundation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Oceana  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, National Chapter  
Sierra Club  
SustainUS  
Union of Concerned Scientists

**Regional**

Conservation Law Foundation  
New England Clean Energy Council  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Southern Environmental Law Center

**Alabama**

Cahaba Riverkeeper

**Arizona**

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter

**California**

Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

**Florida**

Florida Wildlife Federation

**Georgia**

Environment Georgia  
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light  
GreenLaw  
Southface Energy Institute

**Louisiana**

Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy

## **Maine**

Environment Health and Safety Center  
Environment Maine  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Conservation Voters  
Maine Interfaith Power and Light  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter  
Sierra Club, Maine Chapters  
Island Institute

## **Maryland**

Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Maryland  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Barbara A. Frush, Delegate, District 21  
Dan Morhaim, Delegate, District 11  
Maggie McIntosh, Delegate, District 43  
Frank Turner, Delegate, District 13  
Susan C. Lee, Senator, District 16  
Karen S. Montgomery, Senator, District 14  
Andrew Platt, Delegate, District 17  
Robert E. Carpenter, Councilman, Town of Chesapeake Beach  
Tonya Y. Harrison, Council Member, Brentwood  
Duane Rosenberg, Councilman, New Carrollton  
Paul Pinsky, Senator, District 22  
Jeff Waldstreicher, Delegate, District 18  
Sharon Middleton, Councilwoman, Baltimore City  
David Moon, Delegate, District 20  
Eric Luedtke, Delegate, District 14  
Ben Kramer, Delegate, District 19  
Andrew Fellows, Mayor, College Park  
Joseph M. Mitrecic, Commissioner, Worcester County  
Elaine Williams, Councilwoman, Capitol Heights  
Diana Fennell, Delegate, District 47  
Roger Manno, Senator, District 19  
Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Mayor, Brentwood  
Wayne S. Creadick Jr. , Mayor, Myersville  
Danielle Glaros, Council Member, Prince George's County  
Stacy Link, Councilwoman, Sykesville  
Patrick L. Wojahn, Councilmember, College Park  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
Environment Maryland  
Interfaith Power and Light, Maryland  
The Rachel Carson Council

**Massachusetts**

Better Future Project  
Clean Water Action Massachusetts  
Environment Massachusetts  
Environmental League of Massachusetts  
Mass Audubon Society  
Mass Energy  
Massachusetts Climate Action Network  
Self-Reliance  
350 Massachusetts  
Climate Action Now  
StopNED  
Sierra Club, Massachusetts Chapter

**New Jersey**

Environment New Jersey  
Jim Whelan, Senator  
Vince Mazzeo, Assembly Member  
Linda Greenstein, Senator  
Dan Benson, Assembly Member  
Shirley Turner, Senator  
Reed Gusciora, Assembly Member  
Peter Barnes, Senator  
John Wisniewski, Assembly Member  
Linda Stender, Assembly Member  
John McKeon, Assembly Member  
Mila Jasey, Assembly Member  
Shavona Sumter, Assembly Member  
Benjamin Wimberly, Assembly Member  
Gordon Johnson, Assembly Member  
Tim Eustace, Assembly Member  
Joe Lagana, Assembly Member  
Green Faith Director  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey  
ClimateMama  
Bus for Progress  
Clean Water Action New Jersey  
Sierra Club, New Jersey Chapter  
NJ-FREE  
New Jersey Sustainable Collegiate Partners  
Mid-Atlantic Solar Energy Industry Association  
Moms Clean Air Force, New Jersey  
Work Environment Council

United Steel Workers  
Fisherman's Energy  
North Jersey Public Policy Network  
350 New Jersey  
Citizen's United for Renewable Energy  
Robert Russo, Mayor of Montclair  
Michael Gonnelli, Mayor of Secaucus  
Amanda Neshewit, Secaucus Environmental Coordinator  
Michael Santo, Council Member of Tuckerton  
Andrew Koontz, Mercer County Freehold Chair  
Sam Frisby, Mercer County Freehold Vice Chair  
Ann Cannon, Mercer County Freeholder  
Anthony Carabelli, Mercer County Freeholder  
John Cimino, Mercer County Freeholder  
Pasquale Colavita, Mercer County Freeholder  
Lucylle Walter, Mercer County Freeholder

### **New York**

ALIGN: Alliance for a Greater New York  
Citizen's Campaign for the Environment  
Environment New York  
Environmental Advocates of New York  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
New York Interfaith Power and Light  
NYPIRG  
Renewable Energy Long Island  
Sustainability Institute at Molloy College  
Alliance for Clean Energy New York  
Citizen's Environmental Coalition  
North Fork Environmental Council  
Alliance for a Green Economy  
Catskill Mountainkeepers  
Sane Energy Project  
Thomas Roach, Mayor of White Plains  
Citizen Action of New York

### **North Carolina**

Appalachian Voices  
Clean Air Carolina  
Environment North Carolina  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
NC WARN  
The Horse & Rider, Inc.  
Riz Mart Grocery

Sion Furniture  
House of Health  
Beer Co.  
Bay River Pottery  
Coastal Ecology Sails  
Ocean Grill & Tiki Bar  
Nautilus Productions LLC  
Wild About Nature OBX  
Ashtanga Yoga Center  
Roanoke Island Animal Clinic  
BN Design & Advertising  
North Carolina Conservation Network  
Surfrider Foundation, Cape Fear Chapter  
Surfrider Foundation, Outer Banks Chapter  
Outer Banks Surf School  
The Inn on Pamlico Sound  
The Wreck  
Good Hops Brewing LLC  
Mike Woodard, Senator, District 22  
Pricey Harrison, Representative, District 57

### **Pennsylvania**

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Harrisburg Chapter

### **Rhode Island**

Acadia Center  
American Chestnut Foundation, Rhode Island Chapter  
American Lung Association of the Northeast  
American Nurses Association, Rhode Island  
Apeiron Institute of Environmental Living  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Arpin Group, Inc.  
Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
Blackstone River Watershed Council  
Buckeye Brook Coalition  
CCRI Students for Environmental Action  
Childhood Lead Action Project  
Citizen's Climate Lobby, Rhode Island Chapter  
Clean Ocean Access  
Clean Water Action Rhode Island  
Common Fence Point Improvement Association  
Conservation Law Foundation, Rhode Island  
Emerald Cities Providence  
Empire Loan

Environment Rhode Island  
Environmental Council of Rhode Island  
Environmental Justice League of Rhode Island  
Fossil Free Rhode Island  
Friends of Pawtuxet  
Green Circle Design  
Green Ways Rhode Island  
Groundwork Providence, Inc.  
Heartwood Group, Inc.  
Herff Jones, Inc.  
Lincoln Land Trust  
Mercy Ecology  
National Education Association  
Newport Solar  
People's Power and Light  
Providential Gardener  
RENEW  
Rhode Island Association of Railroad Passengers  
Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health  
Rhode Island Environmental Education Association  
Rhode Island Internfaith Power and Light  
Rhode Island Land Trust Council  
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association  
Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition  
Rhode Island Tree Council  
Rhode Island Wild Plant Association  
RIPTA Riders Alliance  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Save the Bay  
Save the Lakes  
Sierra Club, Rhode Island Chapter  
Southside Community Land Trust  
System Aesthetics LLC  
The Greene School  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
Toxics Action Center  
US Green Building Council, Rhode Island Chapter  
Washington County Regional Planning Council  
West Bay Land Trust  
Westerly Land Trust  
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association  
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

**South Carolina**

SC Coastal Conservation League  
Sustaining Way

**Texas**

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Texas Chapter

**Vermont**

350Vermont  
Vermont Citizens Action Network  
Vermont Conversation Voters  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
VPIRG

**Virginia**

Lynwood Lewis, Senator, District 6  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Virginia  
Environment Virginia  
NovaVis  
Shenandoah Valley Network  
VA Conservation Network  
Donald McEachin, Senator, District 9  
David Toscano, House Democratic Leader and Delegate, District 57  
Lamont Bagby, Delegate, District 74  
Patrick Hope, Delegate, District 47  
Richard Sullivan Jr., Delegate, District 48  
Sam Rasoul, Delegate, District 11  
Marcus Simon, Delegate, District 53  
Scott Surovell, Delegate, District 44  
350 Loudoun  
Casual Adventure  
Continuum Energy Solutions  
E3 Living  
Eco Maniac Company  
eNRG- Energizing Renewable Growth  
For Goodness Sake Natural Foods  
GreenLife Adventure Sports  
Herndon Environmental Network  
Hybrid Pedals  
Interfaith Power and Light, Virginia  
Mason Green Patriots  
Moms Clean Air Force, Virginia  
New Virginia Majority  
Organic Food Depot

Reston Environmental Action  
Sweet Leaf Community Café  
TerraScapes Environmental Consulting  
Sierra Club, Virginia  
Virginia Conservation Network  
Barbara Favola, Senator, District 31  
Alfonso Lopez, Delegate  
Croc's 19th Street Bistro

**Wisconsin**

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Wisconsin Chapter  
Wisconsin Environmental Health Network