

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Governor Ned Lamont

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

Cc: Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Dear Governor Lamont,

The undersigned organizations come together to support the procurement of offshore wind power to diversify and decarbonize Connecticut's electric power supply, to reduce pollution and to help stabilize energy prices for our residents. Between 2000 and 2019, the climate crisis inflicted a [global economic toll of \\$16 million an hour](#) from extreme weather events. Here in Connecticut, the impacts and the costs of the climate crisis are growing. The cost of business as usual - depending on fracked gas, oil and other fossil fuels for our state's power supply - is too high.

Under Connecticut state statute, 100% of Connecticut's electricity supply must be from zero-carbon resources by 2040. Additionally, Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act requires a 45% economy-wide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an 80% reduction by 2050. The procurement of renewable resources, including offshore wind power, is critical to help meet both of these targets.

Throughout the Northeast, offshore wind is a priority for energy production. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) the Atlantic Ocean has 1,283.5 gigawatts (GW) of potential offshore wind on the Eastern seaboard. That's enough to power most of the homes along the Atlantic coast. Massachusetts has a 5,600 megawatt (MW) by 2027 target; New York set a 9,000 MW target by 2035, New Jersey's target is 11,000 MW by 2030; Maine set a 3,000 MW target by 2040. In December 2023, South Fork Wind in New York turned on their first offshore wind turbine. In January 2024, the New Jersey BPU approved 3.7 GW of offshore wind.

Connecticut law allows 2,000 MW of offshore wind power to be procured by 2030. Not only does Connecticut's offshore wind goal help to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, it includes strong labor standards for well-paying jobs, and environmental standards for responsible siting and development. Additionally, offshore wind is a critical resource to improve our region's electricity reliability, and can insulate our state and region's consumers from fossil fuel price volatility. Offshore wind provides an opportunity for multi-state cooperation, collaboration, and participation that would provide Connecticut pathways to achieve cost savings and economies of scale in alignment with meeting emissions reductions targets.

We strongly support the procurement of 2,000 MW offshore wind to transition Connecticut from polluting, volatile energy sources to a robust renewable energy economy.

Sincerely,

Samantha Dynowski, State Director
Sierra Club Connecticut

Mark Scully, President
People's Action for Clean Energy

Jayson Velazquez, Climate and Energy Justice Policy Associate
Acadia Center

Tim Snyder, VP of Public Policy and Government Affairs
Northeast Clean Energy Council

Heather Burns, CEO
CT Sustainable Business Council

Nathan Frohling, Director of External Affairs
The Nature Conservancy in CT

Mike Urgo, President
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Susan Eastwood, Chair
Ashford Clean Energy Task Force

Shannon Laun, VP Connecticut
Conservation Law Foundation

Tom Swan, Executive Director
Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Terri Eickel, Executive Director
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Chris Schweitzer, Director
New Haven Climate Movement

Shirley McCarthy, MD
Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee

Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director
Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

Groton Conservation Advocates
Eugene DeJoannis
Solar Energy Association of Connecticut

Sanjiv Godse MD, Chair
Connecticut Health Professionals for Climate Action

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