

February 16, 2024

Dear Senate President Scutari and Assembly Speaker Coughlin:

We, the undersigned unions and labor advocates, call on you, other members of leadership, and the legislature more broadly to continue your support for the offshore wind industry in our state. Offshore wind will be a key driver in creating a green economy for New Jersey. This industry is already creating good paying, union jobs, and will only increase in its economic impact as more projects are approved towards the goal of 11,000MW of generation by 2040. The potential of this burgeoning industry is generational and, if captured, could cement New Jersey as a key hub for offshore for the entire Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Our organizations strongly believe the offshore wind industry will provide a much-needed economic boost by creating jobs in manufacturing, construction, operations, maintenance, research, and other industries. The average wind farm off the coast of New Jersey's shore is expected to directly generate 4,300 jobs and add \$702 million to the state's economy. In addition, the purpose-built Wind Port in Salem County, which has already created thousands of construction jobs, is projected to create 1,500 permanent jobs and generate \$500 million per year in economic activity. If done properly, the economic development and job creation will be felt statewide as supply chain manufacturers set up shop or expand to take advantage of the proximity to offshore wind projects, and local businesses grow as a result of the spillover effects from workers spending in their communities.

Even with all this promise, now that projects are on the verge of becoming a reality and jobs are already being created, myopic opponents of offshore wind have become increasingly loud. These voices do not speak for the majority of New Jerseyans, and definitely do not speak for our unions and labor advocate organizations. While we acknowledge that building a whole new industry from the ground up is not easy or without challenges and may cause trepidation among some, in the end, we are confident it will be for the betterment of our state. Furthermore, there is no better workforce to take on this challenge and ensure success than the men and women of New Jersey's unions.

New Jersey is on the right trajectory to becoming the hub for offshore wind in the region. We must maintain the momentum in smart and resourceful ways so we can reap the economic benefits that come with being a leader, put people to work in high paying jobs, and help reach the state's climate goals. Now is not the time to delay projects or create uncertainty. We need your leadership to ensure that offshore wind becomes a reality for our state.

Respectfully,

Drew Tompkins, Director  
Jersey Renews Coalition

Debra Coyle, Executive Director  
NJ Work Environment Council

William C. Sproule, Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

Fran McLaughlin, Business Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer  
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 21

John Doherty, Senior Advisor, Climate, Infrastructure & Workforce Development  
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Kevin Brown, Executive Vice President  
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Debbie White, President  
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Dennis Trainor, Vice President  
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Megan Chambers and Alberto Arroyo, Co-Managers  
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Steve O'Neill, Northeast Regional Organizer  
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Jobs to Move America