

NJ Audubon -- Sierra Club, NJ -- American Littoral Society – Work Environment Committee -- Environment NJ – NJ League of Conservation Voters -- NY/NJ Baykeeper -- NJ Conservation Foundation -- Clean Water Action -- National Wildlife Federation -- Defenders of Wildlife

April 10, 2018

To: Governor Phil Murphy; Senate President Steve Sweeney; Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin

Our organizations, consisting of some of the state and nation’s largest membership organizations working to protect the environment, wildlife and health and welfare of New Jersey citizens, support and appreciate your collective and individual efforts to advance clean energy. We look forward to being active partners in the years ahead.

Specifically, we believe responsibly developed offshore wind power must be a significant part of any state effort to address climate change, protect people and wildlife from fossil fuel pollution, and create a home-grown clean energy economy. New Jersey should be a leader in creating a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to building a clean energy future, and getting offshore wind power right from the start is essential.

To ensure the successful launch of a New Jersey offshore wind industry, all offshore wind projects (both pilot and commercial scale) developed to meet the state’s goals should be thoroughly reviewed and selected through a competitive process that prioritizes minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing local economic benefits. A responsible plan to build offshore wind power for New Jersey must include:

- a vibrant competitive process with transparent selection criteria to advance projects that ensure greater environment protections, generate local jobs and economic benefits, and drive costs to ratepayers down;
- comprehensive stakeholder engagement opportunities;
- avoidance of environmentally sensitive habitats, especially near shore areas, shoals and inlets;
- an assessment of data gaps and additional needs to inform siting and permitting reviews;
- an infrastructure development plan that prioritizes local workforce and economic opportunities; and
- pro-active coordination with adjacent states and federal agencies to leverage resources already invested to inform New Jersey’s offshore wind development planning.

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the Department of Environmental Protection currently have sufficient legal authority to ensure that offshore wind development occurs in a responsible manner for New Jersey. In particular, the BPU does not need new authority from the Legislature to advance pilot projects. Current proposed legislation, S-1217/A-2485, does not require a competitive bidding process nor does it include requirements recommended above for ensuring environmental protections and stakeholder input.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you and your staff.

Signed,

Eric Stiles President & CEO NJ Audubon	Jeff Tittel, Director Sierra Club, NJ	Tim Dillingham, Executive Director American Littoral Society	Amy Goldsmith, NJ Director Clean Water Action
Michele Byers, Executive Director NJ Conservation Foundation	Curtis Fisher, Regional Executive Director National Wildlife Federation	Greg Remaud, Baykeeper & CEO NY/NJ Baykeeper	
Ed Potosnak, Executive Director NJ League of Conservation Voters	Dan Fatton, Executive Director Work Environment Committee	Douglas O’Malley, Director Environment New Jersey	

Joy Page, Director, Renewable Energy and Wildlife
Defenders of Wildlife