

Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor
Room 280
24 Beacon St,
Boston, MA 02133

July 13, 2016

Dear Gov. Charlie Baker,

On behalf of the environmental organizations, community groups, faith leaders, academics, health professionals, businesses, and government officials signed below – representing tens of thousands of Massachusetts residents – we urge you to make a strong commitment to capturing the immense wind energy resource off our shores. As sea levels rise and extreme weather events become more frequent, climate change is posing an urgent threat to Massachusetts communities. To protect our health, wildlife, economy, and the quality of life of future generations, we must reduce pollution and shift away from fossil fuels to truly launch a new clean energy chapter for the Commonwealth.

We applaud your continued statements expressing interest in embracing Massachusetts' most abundant large-scale clean energy opportunity. With power plant retirements across the region taking thousands of megawatts offline, it is a critical moment for visionary leadership to increase our use of clean, locally produced energy. Offshore wind power offers an unmatched opportunity to replace that power while helping Massachusetts meet its emissions-reduction requirements under the Global Warming Solutions Act, create thousands of local jobs, keep more of our energy dollars close to home, and buffer ratepayers from the volatile natural gas market. **Research shows that a strong commitment to at least 2,000 megawatts (MW) for the Commonwealth can create the market certainty needed to make offshore wind power an increasingly cost-competitive power source.**

Massachusetts has a world-class wind resource far off our shores that can produce clean, reliable, and affordable power when we need it most. Offshore wind blows the strongest during times of peak demand – afternoons, winter cold snaps, and summer heat waves offering a critical opportunity to diversify our energy portfolio with clean, renewable energy.

Countries around the world are already reaping the economic and environmental benefits of offshore wind power. In Europe, this booming industry currently supports 75,000 long-term, quality jobs in both coastal and inland communities. This incredible economic development story can be replicated here in the Commonwealth, creating thousands of jobs across a range of high tech, manufacturing, construction, and operations sectors. We can benefit from more than 25 years of lessons learned across the Atlantic, including technology advancements that have lowered costs and enabled development of stronger wind resources far offshore.

State leaders have a pivotal role to play in bringing offshore wind power on line. The federal government has made significant progress in recent years identifying appropriate locations for offshore wind development, including designating enough area off our shores to power all the homes in Massachusetts. Leading global developers have competitively purchased leases in these areas and are ready to build projects once a clear market for the power is secured.

We call on you to seize this moment and commit to the following actions to finally launch offshore wind power for the Commonwealth:

- **Create a clear, competitive market for offshore wind power.** Over 8,000 MW of offshore wind power is currently available off our shores. We need to get started by committing to at least 2,000 MW by 2025 in order to provide the market certainty necessary at the scale needed to launch a sustainable offshore wind industry.
- **Support a continued efficient, transparent, and environmentally responsible offshore wind development process that protects wildlife.** Continued active engagement by the Commonwealth in the federal offshore wind leasing and development process is critical to ensuring broad stakeholder input and other efforts needed to protect our coastal and marine resources as this critically needed energy development moves forward.
- **Invest in key research, initiatives, and infrastructure needed to spur offshore wind development.** To truly capitalize on this opportunity, leadership is needed from state and local officials to ensure that Massachusetts becomes the hub for this new clean energy industry in the United States.

Massachusetts residents are depending on you for bold leadership to ensure a clean energy future. We strongly urge you to commit to harnessing offshore wind power in a manner that protects wildlife and their habitats throughout every stage of development. We thank you for your consideration of this essential clean energy solution, and look forward to working with you to develop a successful strategy that will bring this transformational new power source on line for the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Environmental and Community Groups:

350 MA

Acadia Center

Better Future Project

Cape and Islands Self-Reliance

Clean Water Action

Climate Xchange Education and Research

Coalition for Clean Air South Coast

Conservation Law Foundation Massachusetts

DivestOurPensionsNow.org
Environment Massachusetts
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Green Cambridge, Inc.
Green Newton
Mass Audubon
Mass Energy
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Sierra Club
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
National Wildlife Federation
No Fossil Fuel, LLC
No Sharon Gas Pipeline
Quincy Climate Action Network
Toxics Action Center
Union of Concerned Scientists

Government Officials:

Janet Flinkstron, Chair of Board of Selectmen – Ashby
Robert Scherer, Selectman – Ashland
Nicole Ledoux, Selectman – Becket
Francie Nolde, Chair of Energy Committee – Boxborough
Shaynah M. Barnes, Councillor-at-Large – Brockton
Frank I. Smizik, State Representative / Chairman of House Committee on Global Warning and Climate Change – Brookline
Dennis J. Carlone, City Councillor – Cambridge
Jan Devereux, City Councillor – Cambridge
Leland Cheung, City Councillor – Cambridge
Nadeem Mazen, City Councillor – Cambridge
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr., State Representative – Cambridge and Somerville
William H. Clark, Jr., Selectman – Danvers
Douglas C. Finn, Interim Town Administrator – Deerfield
Joseph McGonagle, State Representative – Everett
Michael J. McLaughlin, City Councillor – Everett
Greg Snedeker, Selectman – Gill
Mike Sullivan, Councillor-at-Large – Holyoke
Richard Elrick, Energy Coordinator – Barnstable
Eileen Marum, Planning Board Clerk – Marion
Jennifer Francis, PhD., Professor in Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University / Planning Board and Energy Management Committee – Marion
Norman Hills, Marion Energy Management Committee – Marion
William G. Saltonstall, Jr., Energy Management Committee – Marion
Stephanie M. Burke, Mayor – Medford

James B. Eldridge, State Senator – Middlesex and Worcester District
Jon Mitchell, Mayor – New Bedford
Ruth B. Balsler, State Representative – Newton
Erik Yingling, Selectman – Provincetown
Steve Morabito, City Council Vice President – Revere
Patricia D. Jehlen, State Senator – Second Middlesex District
Ron Coler, Selectman – Shelburne Falls
Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 Alderman – Somerville
Daniel P. Dermody, City Councillor – Taunton
Aaron Dushku, City Councillor – Watertown
Berta Bruinooge, Selectman – Wellfleet
Robert Shapiro, Energy Committee – Wellfleet
Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator – Westwood
Carol Walker, Energy Committee – Winthrop

Health Professionals:

Bill Ravanese, Energy Director – Health Care Without Harm
Doris Burford, Registered Nurse -- Boston Medical Center
Robert Goldberg, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology – University of MA Medical School
Suzanne Cashman, Professor – University of MA Medical School

Faith Leaders:

Ashley Anderson, Deacon – First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain
David Jaffe, Rabbi – Kirva Institute
Frieda Gillespie, Reverend – Unitarian Universalist Association
Heather Concannon, Reverend – Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn
Ian Mevorach, Reverend Dr., -- Common Street Spiritual Center
John Gibbons, Senior Minister – Unitarian Universalist at First Parish in Bedford
Katy Z. Allen, Rabbi – Jewish Climate Action Network
Laura Wagner, Executive Director – Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network
M. Lara Hoke, Reverend – Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover
Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care -- Episcopal Diocese of Western Mass. & Mass. Conference, United Church of Christ
Mariama White-Hammond, Reverend – Bethel A.M.E Church in Jamaica Plain
Martha Niebanck, Reverend – Minister Emerita, First Parish in Brookline
Patricia Brennan, Reverend – Interim Minister, First Parish in Dorchester
Rali Weaver, Reverend – Unitarian Universalist at First Church and Parish in Dedham
Reebee Girash, Reverend – MA Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action, United Church of Christ Eliot Church in Newton
Fred Small, Reverend – Minister for Climate Justice, Arlington Street Church in Boston
Kathleen Hepler, Reverend – Unitarian Universalist First Parish in Framingham
Susan Brecht, Reverend – Senior Pastor, United Church of Christ Eliot Church in Newton
Rob Mark, Reverend – Church of the Covenant in Boston

Shosana Meira Friedman, Rabbi – Temple Sinai in Brookline
Wendy L. Bell, Reverend – Interim Minister, First Parish in Malden

Academics:

Ann Marie Rocheleau, Associate Professor – Stonehill College
Charles C. Chester, Assistant Adjunct Professor -- Tufts University
Christopher A. Williams, Prof. Dr., Resident and Professor – Clark University
Kristin Burkholder, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science – Stonehill College
William R. Moomaw, Emeritus Professor and Co-Director Global Development and Environment
Institute --Tufts University
Yui Suzuki, Associate Professor of Biology – Wellesley College

Businesses:

Beaumont Solar
Better Standing Company, Inc.
Birch Tree Capital
Climate Action Business Association
Dumpling House
Formaggio Kitchen South End
Green Century Capital Management
Jason & Fischer, Attorneys at Law
Longleaf Lumber
Mei Mei Restaurant
New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
Resolute Marine Energy, Inc.
Spencer Organ Company, Inc.
Stiebel Eltron, Inc.
Time Distributers Inc.