



CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs



November 13, 2017

Robert Klee, Commissioner
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Klee:

We are participants in the statewide CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, which includes labor unions, community organizations, religious groups, businesses and environmental groups. We are deeply concerned about the need to build a sustainable economy with good-paying jobs here in Connecticut while reducing the threat of climate disruption here and around the world.

We applaud the recent announcement that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has initiated a new proceeding to procure renewable energy resources, including offshore wind. We welcome this step toward making offshore wind an integral part of the state's climate protection and energy strategies.

A recent study commissioned by Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York highlighted the potential for 36,000 offshore wind-related jobs in the Northeast by the year 2030. Since these neighboring states have a strong lead in the pursuit of offshore wind development, Connecticut's initial procurement must be intentionally and strategically designed to secure a share of the economic benefits for our workers and communities.

At a Roundtable gathering on November 9, 2017, we reviewed the policy frameworks governing offshore wind procurement in Massachusetts and Maryland, using the attached handout. As DEEP prepares the draft Request for Proposals (RFP), we encourage your staff to draw upon the approaches taken by these two states in seeking to maximize in-state economic impacts. In particular, we wish to highlight the following:

- Both MA and MD have required project proposals to include detailed cost-benefit analyses that address in-state economic impacts (e.g. employment, income, and taxes) arising from construction, manufacturing and various supply-chain activities;
- Proposals submitted for review in MA will have 25% of their score based on qualitative factors, including in-state economic benefits;
- MD has incorporated language regarding the use of skilled labor and registered apprenticeship programs that will guide the negotiation of project labor agreements and lead to employment of in-state workers.

We look forward to reviewing the draft RFP later this year, and we expect that the revised Comprehensive Energy Strategy will reflect this new commitment to offshore wind procurement. In the meantime, we will urge the Department of Economic and Community Development to collaborate with the Connecticut Port Authority to initiate an inventory and analysis of in-state manufacturing and port facilities to encourage supply-chain investment and economic activity related to offshore wind development.

We welcome the opportunity to work with DEEP and our allies in the coming months to ensure that Connecticut's workers and communities secure a share of the benefits from this regional development of offshore wind resources.

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*The following people have endorsed this statement **as individuals** and NOT on behalf of or representing any organization or institution.*

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John Harrity	East Hartland	CT State Council of Machinists
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