

New York State Senator

Phil Boyle

Senate Committees

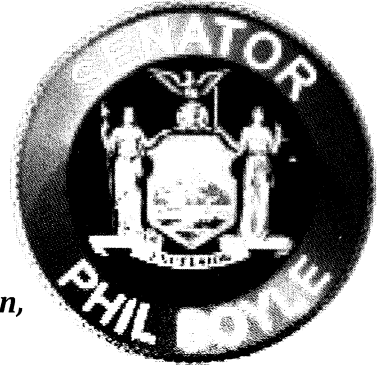
Chair:

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*Administrative Regulations Review Commission,
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Consumer Protection, Housing,
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2014 NY Energy Planning Board Hearing Statement by NY Senator Phil Boyle

I would like to thank the New York Energy Planning Board for hosting today's important hearing.

Thank you for allowing my District Office Director, Gordon Canary, to attend today's event as my representative. I wish I could be there personally to discuss renewable energy issues here on Long Island and throughout our state, but I was called to Albany today for legislative session.

I read the 2014 NY Energy Plan with great disappointment in that more emphasis was not placed on renewable energy sources. It seems that some officials in Albany are more interested in talking about renewables than acting to make New York State a leader in this area.

The time for talk is over.

One of the areas of renewable energy that we, as Long Islanders, can rally behind is Offshore Wind. While Upstate New York reaps the benefits of cheap hydropower, we have to play to our strength here on Long Island. Yes, we live on an Island. And it is a region where average wind speeds are higher than in many other areas of our state and nation.

Offshore wind energy has had its own somewhat controversial history here on Long Island, with some residents concerned that massive windmills will spoil the view from our beloved beaches. I would note that some of the new proposals for Wind Farms now being considered for our coastlines would barely be visible from our beaches - if at all.

As we speak, there are dozens of Offshore Wind Farms in Europe. There are dozens more planned in the coming years. Why are there none in New York? Why is there not even one anywhere in the United States? I want to see our state lead the way for Offshore Wind Energy in the country as we strive to lead the nation in all renewable energy sources.

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Offshore Wind will provide clean, renewable energy which will reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases.

As importantly, Offshore Wind will provide jobs for New Yorkers - and lots of them.

As we meet in Albany to negotiate the 2014-15 New York State Budget, I call on the Governor and the State Legislature to put our money where our mouths are! It is time to stop talking and start acting to increase renewable energy alternatives here in the Empire State and for New York to lead the way on Offshore Wind Energy.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.