

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Steven Bellone
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Offshore Wind for Long Island

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As Suffolk County Executive, I am writing in support of Deepwater Wind's proposal to LIPA seeking a Power Purchase Agreement for an offshore wind energy project serving Long Island. As we have seen elsewhere, offshore wind has the potential to provide the kind of flexible energy mix that has been endorsed by NYISO. Moreover, the proposed project can create jobs and contribute economically to the region.

Particularly notable in the Deepwater proposal is its potential as a generator of jobs. Over 58,000 people are currently employed in the global offshore wind industry, with growth projected to reach 191,000 by 2020. The U.S. Department of Energy best case scenario has the Atlantic coast supporting as many as 70,000 jobs by 2030. Given our location, Long Island is ideally positioned to serve as a hub for the U.S. offshore wind industry, which would be a welcome boost for an economy that lost a vast number of defense industry jobs.

The technology needed to extract electricity from the wind has also matured. Over the past two decades, eleven European countries have collectively installed over 2,000 offshore wind turbines. Europe's experience demonstrates that offshore wind is viable.

After discussions with Deepwater Wind's executives and considering the durability of their New England initiative, their proposal could get traction on Long Island and New York State. As the only offshore wind development off Long Island to have completed the necessary federal leasing process, Deepwater Wind's project could, conceivably, be in service many years before others, positioning Long Island, NY in the forefront.

In contrast to a previous offshore wind proposal we on the South Shore questioned, Deepwater Wind's project is less intrusive, a principle which will have to also apply to the laying of its transmission cables. With larger, new-generation turbines providing enhanced load capacity, the Deepwater project may deliver more cost-effectively in terms of kWhrs, an essential litmus for the ratepayers of Long Island. As I am very supportive of New York's fishing industry, Deepwater will, necessarily, be fully vetted for its impact on the fishing industry and surrounding ecosystems as well.

Most importantly, by committing to use the abandoned Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant for project logistics and assembly, Deepwater Wind's proposal will not only create hundreds of Long Island-based jobs in the near term, but also will establish the infrastructure and skilled labor force necessary to give Long Island a long-term competitive advantage in the offshore wind industry.

I welcome any further consideration on this proposal.

Sincerely,



STEVEN BELLONE
Suffolk County Executive

CC: Senator Dean Skelos
Senator Kenneth LaValle
Assemblymember Amy Paulin, Chair, Assembly Committee on Energy
Assemblymember Steve Englebright
Assemblymember Fred Thiele
Assemblymember Bob Sweeney
Assemblymember Anthony Palumbo
Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance, New York State
John Rhodes, President and Chief Executive Officer, NYSERDA
John McMahon, Chief Operating Officer, Long Island Power Authority
David Daly, President and Chief Operating Officer, PSEG Long Island