



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

SENATOR MARK MONTIGNY
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
Second Bristol and Plymouth District

CHAIRMAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES
September 29, 2015

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Honorable Benjamin B. Downing
Joint Committee on Telecommunications,
Utilities and Energy
State House, Room 413F
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Thomas A. Golden, Jr.
Joint Committee on Telecommunications,
Utilities and Energy
State House, Room 473B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Downing and Chairman Golden:

I am writing to you in strong support of offshore wind as a component of any comprehensive energy bill. As the Commonwealth seeks to deal with rising energy costs and reducing carbon emissions, any sensible approach to this matter must include offshore wind procurement.

In particular, offshore wind can provide a clean, renewal resource that supports local job creation and reduces dependence on energy imports. The Southcoast is in close proximity to two of the most abundant offshore wind resources in the United States, and New Bedford stands ready as an industrial port to support this venture. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that offshore wind will create thousands of jobs, which Massachusetts could benefit from if it acts promptly in taking a lead in the developing offshore industry. These factors present a unique opportunity to meet our energy needs and to bring more quality jobs to Massachusetts.

Offshore wind can also reduce the Commonwealth's reliance on fossil fuels and exposure to costly gas price spikes. Last year alone, electric ratepayers experienced a price increase of up to 40% during the winter months. The impending retirement of the Brayton Point power plant in Somerset and limited natural gas pipeline capacity in the region will further exacerbate this problem unless we develop alternative sources of energy. Renewable sources such as offshore wind can eliminate our reliance on fossil fuel imports and protect consumers from costly price increases that hamper the already strained budgets of small businesses and hardworking families.

Massachusetts is fortunate to have access to a great abundance of offshore wind in addition to a highly skilled and educated workforce. We would be remiss to not take advantage of such an opportunity. I urge your support for offshore wind development in any comprehensive energy bill deliberated in this committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Montigny".

Mark C. Montigny

SENATOR