



The Honorable Jeffrey N. Roy
House Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 42

The Honorable Tackey Chan
House Chair, Joint Committee on Consumer
Protection and Professional Licensure
State House Room 43

The Honorable Bradley H. Jones, Jr.
House Minority Leader
State House Room 124

The Honorable Michael J. Barrett
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on
Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
State House Room 109D

The Honorable Cynthia S. Creem
Senate Majority Leader
State House Room 312A

The Honorable Bruce E. Tarr
Senate Minority Leader
State House Room 308

July 15, 2022

Dear Honorable Members of the Conference Committee,

The Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on **H.4524/S.2842 An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy**, which would advance the responsible development of offshore wind power. We applaud your commitment to passing clean energy legislation, and urge you to work quickly to pass final legislation **with strong language for equity and economic inclusion**.

BECMA is focused on helping to close the MA racial wealth gap through four pillars - Commerce, Entrepreneurship, Ownership and Placement of Black residents in the MA skilled workforce. The Offshore wind industry provides ample opportunities to engage both Black entrepreneurs and the workers. Offshore wind is an unprecedented economic opportunity for our members and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Offshore wind has both the potential to become a \$100 billion industry in New England and the ability to become the backbone of our clean energy economy by 2050. The choices made by policymakers and developers today will set the course for the growth and workforce development of offshore wind for years to come. As members of the committee, you possess a unique opportunity to ensure that the clean energy transition is equitable at this stage of the industry's development, which will set the Commonwealth's black and brown communities up for success and ensure a green and just transition.

We strongly encourage the incorporation of the environmental justice and economic inclusion language in any final legislative package approved by the conference committee (Sections 1, 11, 20, and 22 of H.4524; Sections 8 and 50 of S.2842). This language would require diversity & inclusion plans in order for projects to be approved as well as increase accountability through a program at MassCEC that would measure and report progress. These provisions would incorporate adapting from successful models employed by other public agencies in the Commonwealth, most notably Massport and the Gaming Commissions, which saw remarkable

success in increasing economic inclusion by creating the conditions for healthy competition and ongoing accountability. We also encourage the inclusion of accountability, transparency and enforcement measures on this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of these important provisions. We look forward to supporting a comprehensive final bill that sets the Commonwealth up as a national leader in the responsible development of offshore wind and moves us towards an equitable clean energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nicole Obi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Obi

President & CEO

Black Economic Council of Massachusetts