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The Honorable Jeff Roy  
Room 43, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael Barrett  
Room 109D, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Tackey Chan  
Room 42, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Cynthia Stone Creem  
Room 312A, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Bradley Jones Jr.  
Room 124, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Bruce Tarr  
Room 308, State House  
Boston, MA 02133

June 13, 2022

Dear Conference Committee members:

Hunt Companies is writing in support of Section 23 in *H.4524, An Act Advancing Offshore Wind and Clean Energy*, and we respectfully urge its inclusion in the final Conference Committee Report that will reconcile differences between H.4524 and *S.2842, An Act to Drive Climate Policy Forward*.

Hunt Companies is a diversified, family-owned holding company that invests in operating businesses, real estate and infrastructure assets, including: 732 units of on base military housing, 120 affordable, senior and mixed-use apartments, with an additional 751 units in development in the state of Massachusetts. One of our subsidiaries is Amber Infrastructure Group, a leading developer and manager of offshore energy transmission in the United Kingdom. To date, Amber has competitively developed nearly 2.5GW of offshore transmission assets, representing nine total projects powering approximately 2.1 million homes.

Hunt and its affiliates closely watched the evolution of the northeast offshore wind energy market, including the leadership provided by the Commonwealth's legislative leaders. We've similarly observed the growing interest at the state and federal levels to "unbundle" offshore generation from offshore transmission, including the recent competitive offshore transmission solicitation in New Jersey.<sup>1</sup> Given our professional experience in the United Kingdom -- where 14GW of offshore wind generation is either fully commissioned or under construction -- we know that this decoupled approach is proven and highly successful.

Accordingly, we strongly support the retention of competitively bid offshore wind transmission procurement language as written in H.4524 and respectively request that conferees retain this language as they reconcile the H.4524 with S.2842.

We believe it is essential that lowest-cost solutions are employed to deliver offshore wind generation to Commonwealth ratepayers. Massachusetts' own experiences clearly demonstrate that competitive solicitations for offshore generation help drive lowest cost energy production. Similarly, enabling offshore transmission developers to compete to build transmission will put downward pressure on the

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/ofrp/SAA%20Process%20Overview.pdf>

delivery of offshore energy, creating ratepayer savings. In fact, the Brattle Group noted last year that planned, competitive transmission procurements in Europe have recently resulted in zero-subsidy bids.<sup>2</sup>

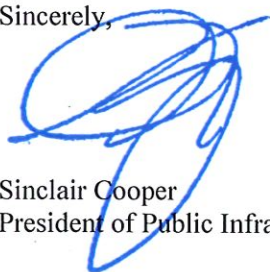
In addition to cost-savings, planned competitive transmission development will avoid a poorly planned series of transmission lines moving from individual projects to shore. This, in turn, will reduce impacts to existing ocean users and the marine environment, while also enabling more operationally and cost-efficient integration with the existing onshore grid.

Given our experiences in the United Kingdom, Hunt Companies and its affiliates are eager to compete with our industry peers to build offshore wind transmission in Massachusetts, delivering jobs and investment to the Commonwealth while also onshoring our transmission expertise.

We respectfully request that the House and Senate conferees retain the competitive offshore wind transmission solicitation language contained in H.4524. Moreover, we would be pleased to offer our transmission professionals as expert resources to the committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sinclair Cooper  
President of Public Infrastructure Development

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<sup>2</sup> [https://newengland.anbaric.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Brattle\\_Group\\_Offshore\\_Transmission\\_in\\_New-England\\_5.13.20-FULL-REPORT.pdf](https://newengland.anbaric.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Brattle_Group_Offshore_Transmission_in_New-England_5.13.20-FULL-REPORT.pdf) - Page 20