

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Mariano
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon St. Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jeffrey N. Roy, Chair
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Proposed Amendment to Offshore Wind Legislation, H.4348 (formerly H.3310), "An Act to power Massachusetts's clean energy economy"

Dear Speaker Mariano and Chairman Roy,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our thousands of members and supporters across the Commonwealth, we applaud your work to keep Massachusetts at the forefront of the nation's response to the climate crisis and development of offshore wind.

We are writing to encourage that any House energy or climate legislation that is brought to the floor include a provision allowing Massachusetts communities to participate in offshore wind projects in a way that leads to the deployment of more renewable power.

Many Massachusetts residents, and the communities they live in, want to support, and participate in the Commonwealth's clean energy transition. But there are obstacles to buying this power in a way that supports the addition of new renewable generation. Current policies only support short-term contracts for power through community aggregation, but such contracts are unable to support the financing necessary to drive the addition of new wind turbines or solar panels. While H.4348 includes a preference for offshore wind projects that partner with a municipal aggregator, additional language is needed to facilitate this goal by enabling Massachusetts communities (that so choose) to contract for ten years or more for power in a way that supports financing of additional renewable generation.

To address the challenge outlined above, we support amendment language that has been developed (see Attachment A) to allow municipal aggregators (see Attachment B for full list of cities & towns in MA with approved municipal aggregation programs) the ability to enter financeable long-term contracts with offshore wind developers. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (Mass CEC) would be given the ability to work with these aggregators to provide the necessary financial backstop a developer would need to secure their own financing and ultimately develop additional wind turbines. This might mean Mass CEC supporting a Letter of Credit or similar financial mechanism to backstop a long-term contract.

For further information about this language, please feel free to contact Richard Andre, President of Vineyard Power (richard@vineyardpower.com), or Larry Chretien, Executive Director of Green Energy Consumers Alliance (larry@greenenergyconsumers.org)

We appreciate your strong leadership and attention to offshore wind power to date, and we look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead to ensure the Commonwealth maintains momentum toward the clean and just energy future that is within reach.

Thank you for your consideration.



VINEYARD WIND



Attachment A

**Proposed amendment for financing backstop of long-term contracts
for offshore wind energy and RECs to municipal aggregators
to fulfill the objectives of subsection (d) of Section 13 of the bill**

Section 7 is further amended by substituting the following for Section 9A(c)(3)), as amended:

strike “to promote offshore wind innovation” and substitute in place thereof “to promote offshore wind innovation, including, without limitation, setting up a dedicated fund and program to secure, leverage or otherwise guarantee long-term purchases of energy and renewable energy certificates from certified offshore wind companies for direct sale, or resale by the center, to a municipality or group of municipalities with an approved municipal load aggregation plan pursuant to section 134 of chapter 164 of the general laws; and (B) non-profit aggregations pursuant to section 137 of chapter 164 of the general laws,”

Attachment B

169 Approved Municipal Aggregation Programs in Massachusetts

Abington	Eastham	Mendon
Acton	Easton	Methuen
Acushnet	Edgartown	Millbury
Adams	Egremont	Millis
Aquinnah	Fairhaven	Millville
Arlington	Fall River	Milton
Ashby	Falmouth	Monterey
Ashland	Florida	Nantucket
Attleboro	Foxborough	Natick
Auburn	Franklin	New Ashford
Avon	Freetown	New Bedford
Barnstable	Gardner	New Salem
Becket	Gill	New Marlborough
Bedford	Gloucester	Newburyport
Bellingham	Grafton	Newton
Berlin	Great Barrington	North Adams
Bernardston	Greenfield	North Andover
Billerica	Hadley	Northbridge
Boston	Halifax	Northfield
Bourne	Hamilton	Norton
Brewster	Harvard	Oak Bluffs
Brookline	Harwich	Orange
Buckland	Hatfield	Orleans
Burlington	Haverhill	Oxford
Cambridge	Heath	Pelham
Carlisle	Holliston	Pembroke
Carver	Huntington	Pittsfield
Charlemont	Kingston	Plainville
Charlton	Lancaster	Plymouth
Chatham	Lanesborough	Plympton
Chelmsford	Leicester	Provincetown
Cheshire	Lenox	Rehoboth
Chilmark	Leverett	Rockland
Clarksburg	Lexington	Salem
Colrain	Lincoln	Salisbury
Conway	Lowell	Sandisfield
Dalton	Lunenburg	Sandwich
Dartmouth	Marion	Seekonk
Dedham	Marlborough	Sharon
Deerfield	Mashpee	Sheffield
Dennis	Mattapoisett	Shelburne
Dighton	Medford	Shirley
Douglas	Medway	Somerset
Dracut	Melrose	Somerville

Southborough
Stoneham
Stoughton
Sudbury
Sunderland
Sutton
Swampscott
Swansea
Tewksbury
Tisbury
Truro
Tyngsborough
Tyringham

Upton
Walpole
Waltham
Wareham
Warwick
Watertown
Webster
Wellfleet
Wendell
West Bridgewater
West Brookfield
West Springfield
West Stockbridge

West Tisbury
Westborough
Westford
Westport
Whately
Williamsburg
Williamstown
Winchendon
Winchester
Worcester
Yarmouth