



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 10, 2010

Chairman Elia Germani
Commissioner Mary Bray
Commissioner Paul Roberti
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

RE: PUC Docket #4111
Town of New Shoreham Project

Dear Chairman Germani and Commissioners Bray and Roberti:

We write to express our support for the Block Island Wind Farm project proposed by Deepwater Wind.

As you know, the Rhode Island General Assembly has been a national leader in promoting renewable energy development, energy independence, and the creation of jobs in the emerging green economy. We have adopted important legislative supports for the development of renewable energy in Rhode Island. Several years ago the General Assembly adopted the Renewable Energy Standard (RES), now codified at Chapter 26 of Title 39 of the General Laws. This RES set Rhode Island on a path to procuring 16% of its electricity needs from clean, renewable energy sources. Last year, after two years of hearings and study, the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the Long-Term Contracting for Renewable Energy Act, now codified at Chapter 26.1 of Title 39 of the General Laws. This Act is another critical support for development of renewable energy projects in this state.

In passing the RES and the Long-Term Contracting Act, the General Assembly understood that renewable energy sources are today more expensive than fossil fuels. But the General Assembly also recognized that the development of renewable energy sources provides other benefits to our state and our nation, such as enhancing environmental quality, mitigating the impact of greenhouse gases, increasing our energy independence, and creating jobs in a new industry.

Today, Rhode Island stands on the threshold of ushering in a new era of renewable energy development in North America. The Block Island Wind Farm, located in state waters, is on a path to being the first commercial offshore wind farm constructed in North America. Moving forward with that project is a first, but critical, step in launching this new industry here in Rhode Island. With the ample wind resources located just off of Rhode Island's coast and our unique infrastructure assets at Quonset Point, Rhode Island can become the hub of this new industry in the eastern United States.

The Long-Term Contracting Act has several goals: stabilizing long-term energy prices, enhancing environmental quality, creating jobs in Rhode Island in the renewable energy sector, and facilitating the financing of renewable energy generation within the jurisdictional boundaries of the state or adjacent state or federal waters or providing direct economic benefit to the state. We believe that the Block Island Wind Farm achieves these goals.

In addition, the Block Island Wind Farm would benefit the residents of New Shoreham by connecting that island's electric grid to the mainland and by allowing the island to forego the use of its diesel generators.

The Block Island Wind Farm is an important step in meeting our state's renewable energy goals and creating a new green industry here in Rhode Island. We thank you for consideration of the Power Purchase Agreement.

Sincerely,



Gordon D. Fox
Speaker of the House of Representatives



M. Teresa Paiva-Weed
President of the Senate