

Statement For PUC meeting, January 5, 2010

My name is Peter B. Baute, and I am here as a representative of the the Block Island Residents Association, as a private citizen, and as a member of the Town Council.

First I would like to read to you a resolution of support from BIRA for the off shore wind farm.

Second, I would like to share with you the results of a large survey of opinion carried out by Professor Lefteris Pavlides of Roger Williams University under the auspices of the Town Council.

This survey showed that 84% of Block Island voters support the concept of a wind farm off Block Island and within the three mile limit, if it provides a cable link from the island to the mainland. The survey was mailed to 2200 people, with a response rate over 42%.

This is of enormous economic importance to our citizens and to our business community. The cost of diesel-generated electricity puts our hospitality industry at a tremendous disadvantage, and is a heavy burden for everyone who lives here.

Docket 4111  
Sponsor: Public  
Exhibit: 2  
Date: 1/5/10

Cgw

# BIRA

Block Island Residents Association

[HOME](#) [COMMUNITY SUPPORT](#) [WHITE PAPER](#) [CALENDAR](#) [MEMBERSHIP](#) [DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM](#) [CONTACT US](#) [LINKS](#)

## Block Island Residents Association

President's  
Report BIRA  
Annual Meeting  
August 15, 2009

The Block Island  
Deer Population  
George Mellor  
September 2009

Editor  
Block Island Times  
PO Box 278  
Block Island, RI 02807

Dear Editor:

The Board of Directors of the Block Island Residents Association has identified the high cost of electric energy on Block Island as a major problem effecting residents, businesses and the Town. In response to this the Board has recently adopted a Resolution endorsing alternative energy as a goal for the community. The Resolution states:

**BIRA's Board of Directors strongly endorses the concept of alternative energy as an important goal for Block Island and specifically endorses: 1) the plan for an offshore wind farm while reserving the right to take issue with certain specifics of that plan as it develops; 2) a feasibility study for a municipal wind turbine on Block Island, the study should evaluate more than one site and should be comprehensive to include environmental, technical and economic issues and 3) any and all means, by all parties to achieve net metering for the residents of Block Island.**

In response to this Resolution, the Board has established two sub-committees to focus on the development of alternative energy sources for the Island; one for Wind Energy and one for Solar Energy. These committees will be seeking input from Island stakeholders and be making periodic reports to the community as to the progress of implementing these sources.

Sincerely,  
Bill Penn  
President

## Block Island Voters

1484 mailed

192 undeliverable

547 surveys returned

42.34% Response Rate

## Block Island Homeowners not voters

728 mailed

9 undeliverable

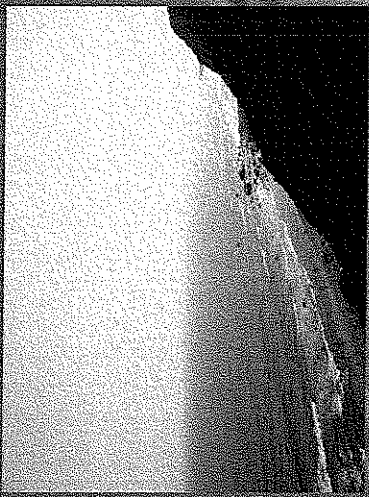
418 surveys returned

58% Response Rate



100.0%  
90.0%  
80.0%  
70.0%  
60.0%  
50.0%  
40.0%  
30.0%  
20.0%  
10.0%  
0.0%

Homeowners  
Voters



83.9%

71.0%

22.4%

1.2%

3.6%

3.0%

Support Neither Oppose Not Sure

An offshore wind park off Block Island within the 3 nautical mile state waters consisting of 5 to 8 wind turbines as seen above if it provides power to Block Island & cable link to the mainland.