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Docket 4929

Acadia Center Testimony in Support of Offshore Wind Development

Chairperson Curran and Members of the Public Utilities Commission,

Acadia Center appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of offshore wind energy. Acadia Center is a non-profit research and advocacy organization committed to advancing the clean energy future by providing reliable information, comprehensive advocacy and problem-solving through innovation and collaboration.

The most recent reports from the [International Panel on Climate Change](#) and the [4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment](#) highlight the urgency to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as quickly as possible to mitigate the worst effects of global climate change. To move successfully to a clean, low-carbon future, states can advance grid-scale renewables, promote clean distributed generation, and strengthen market-based GHG policies. Rapidly shifting electricity generation towards renewable sources will displace high-carbon fossil fuel generation plants and will additionally help replace petroleum and natural gas in transportation and heating by fueling electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Good wind speeds, shallow water, proximity to population centers, and rapid advances in wind turbine technology make offshore wind a promising grid-scale renewable resource in the Northeast that can reliably provide power to millions of homes. Acadia Center's [EnergyVision 2030](#) analysis forecasts that to reduce GHG emissions 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, our region must take aggressive action to shift electricity generation to clean renewable sources, including procurements of approximately 6,400 MW of offshore wind.<sup>1</sup>

It is vital Rhode Island continue to show leadership and support widespread deployment of offshore wind resources through effective regulatory processes and clear legislative policies. Governor Raimondo signaled this commitment with Rhode Island's goal to procure 1,000 MW of clean renewable energy by 2020. If approved, this project and its Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) would more than double the state's progress towards meeting that goal while also providing a stable 20-year pricing structure that insulates consumers from price volatility in the energy market.

Acadia Center looks forward to the Commission's rigorous review of the PPA to ensure it provides consumer and environmental benefits for ratepayers and to working with all stakeholders to develop policies supporting the rapid development of offshore wind.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> Acadia Center, EnergyVision 2030, Electric Generation Companion Brief, p. 3