
December 15, 2017

Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street--Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Deepwater's Revolution Wind Proposal for 83D Solicitation

Dear Secretary Beaton,

As a group of 27 community and business leaders in New Bedford we wish to express our support for the "Revolution Wind" proposal by Deepwater Wind. We offer this support as a working group that initially came together in 2014 to articulate a strategy for the City's economic regeneration that builds on the committee's collective experience in leading successful enterprises. Our final report, *Uniting in Pursuit of Growth and Opportunity*, highlights strategies to advance this goal and identifies the Port of New Bedford as the City's greatest economic asset with far reaching economic impacts for the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts is fast moving toward a clean energy future. As it does, we should all be focused on not just providing the Commonwealth with more —and more affordable—energy, but also on building the capacity we need to be a clean energy leader for generations to come. As a result of the landmark renewable energy legislation passed into law in 2016, the Baker Administration is in the middle of a two-stage procurement of clean energy. The first stage (83D), to be awarded sometime in January, is focused on renewables like hydro and solar power but open to any renewable offering. The second procurement (83C) will be for offshore wind only and will be awarded later next year.

As providers lined up to submit proposals under the first stage, one caught our attention: Deepwater Wind, the New England-based company responsible for building the Block Island Wind farm in Rhode Island. A 144-megawatt (MW) wind farm 12 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, its Revolution Wind proposal is competitively priced and one of the only proposals that would interconnect in Southeastern Massachusetts where power is needed most and congestion is minimal.

But what makes Revolution Wind especially unique is that it is the only offshore wind proposal offered in the 83D first stage and is going head-to-head against more mature renewables like hydropower and onshore wind.

This proposal is significant to us for a number of reasons. First, it would jumpstart our region's entry into offshore wind market at a time other states are trying to catch up, boosting our competitive advantage and first mover status. Over the next decade, Governor Cuomo in New York and Governor-Elect Phil Murphy of New Jersey are calling for major increases in offshore wind procurement — and others will surely do so soon. Selecting a modest project now, and perhaps larger projects in 83C would send a clear signal to the global offshore wind industry that Massachusetts is serious about being a first mover in this industry, which will result in capturing a larger share economic development in these critical early years.

Second, the Deepwater Wind proposal would increase regional competition by creating a minimum of two offshore projects going simultaneously. Where the 83C solicitation established a larger minimum project size of 200 MW to 800MW —83D allows for multiple, smaller projects. Having Revolution Wind in the 83D competition mix effectively sets the stage for offshore wind to be more competitively priced with far less financial and

operational risk to the state – as well as more job training and investment in Massachusetts’ human and educational infrastructure.

Third, it is our understanding that Revolution Wind represents only 5% of the overall 83D solicitation. At 144 MW, the state could still award, for instance, a large thousand-megawatt hydropower contract. This would not only have the effect of meeting our diverse energy needs and speeding the progress of building a wind farm. As importantly, it would set a ceiling for the price of future offshore wind contracts, since 83C requires each new contract be more competitively priced than the previous one.

Lastly are the economic benefits—to the Commonwealth as a whole but certainly to New Bedford and our region in particular. Revolution Wind will bring 700 construction jobs, 60-to-80 permanent jobs in Massachusetts, and an estimated economic impact of \$250 million. Indeed, of the 50-plus proposals submitted under 83D, only Revolution Wind could claim a meaningful economic impact in Massachusetts.

Creation of a domestic supply chain is a critically important issue to New Bedford, the Commonwealth and to our entire region. A robust domestic supply chain is critical to long-term reductions in the leveling the cost of electricity, as well as to the overall economic impacts in the region. Over the next few decades, the region will benefit greatly. Workers will have access to well-paying middle skills careers in offshore wind.

For nearly a decade, the City of New Bedford built public awareness about the economic, environmental and social benefits associated with offshore wind production. We have advocated for the landmark legislation enacted by the Commonwealth in 2016; and continue to enthusiastically support the development of a domestic supply chain to support the Revolution Wind project and development of other offshore wind farms in the near future.

The Revolution Wind project is a giant step forward in that direction. With our centuries long leadership in the maritime economy, the deployment of the proposed Revolution Wind project at the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal will create well-paying jobs in a region that knows how to work on the water. In addition, Deepwater Wind’s decision to utilize the port of New Bedford for long-term operation and maintenance activities will result in long-term employment opportunities for area residents over the next several decades.

Deepwater Wind’s multi-million dollar commitments to fishing and offshore wind research with SMAST and High School training opportunities for our regions high schools sets a new bar for investment in our existing industries and our young people.

So much is at stake in this competition—from reducing energy costs to enhancing Massachusetts’ leadership on clean energy—one reason policymakers, environmentalists and business leaders from across the political spectrum have begun expressing support for the Deepwater proposal.

There are no projects in the 83D solicitation that do anything like what Revolution Wind will catalyze for this long-struggling region of Massachusetts.

For our group, the choice is clear. With Revolution Wind, we can send a clear signal to businesses and citizens, to communities and across the state, around the country, and to the global offshore wind industry, that Massachusetts and our region is not only stepping up to the plate when it comes to cost competitive offshore wind, but intends to be a national leader in the decades to come.

Sincerely,

Gerry Kavanaugh, Co-Chair
President LStar Investments
LStar Ventures

Anthony Sapienza, Co-Chair
President JA Apparel Corp.
President New Bedford EDC

Nicholas Christ
President and CEO
BayCoast Bank

Elizabeth Isherwood
Chairman
Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundation

David Martin
President and COO
HTP Comfort Solutions, LLC

Christopher Rezendes
Founder and President
INEX Advisors

Dr. Laura Douglas
President
Bristol Community College

Joseph Nauman
Executive Vice President, Corporate and Legal
Acushnet Company

Maureen Sylvia Armstrong
President, CEO and owner
Sylvia Group Insurance

John Vasconcellos
President
Community Foundation of SE MA

Quentin Ricciardi
CEO
Acorn Management

Doug Glassman
Owner
SERVPRO of New Bedford

David Slutz
Managing Director
Potentia Business Solutions

Patrick Murray
President and CEO
Bristol County Savings Bank

Anne Broholm
CEO
AHEAD, LLC

Rick Kidder
President & CEO
SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce

Helena DaSilva Hughes
Executive Director
Immigrants' Assistance Center

Bob Unger
Chairman
Leadership SouthCoast

Jeff Glassman
President
Darnit! Inc.

James Lopes
Law Offices of James J. Lopes
New Bedford Historical Commission

Rosemary Gill
Executive Director
Zeiteron Performing Arts Center

Jennifer Downing
Executive Director
Leadership SouthCoast