



MA-NE4OSW Partners:

The Alliance for Business Leadership
Association to Preserve Cape Cod
BlueGreen Alliance
Bristol Community College
Ceres
Clean Water Action
Environment America / MA
Environmental League of MA
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Health Care Without Harm
League of Conservation Voters
Mass Audubon
National Wildlife Federation
Revision Energy
Second Nature
UMass Lowell

MA-NE4OSW Endorsers:

Autonomous Marine Systems
Ben Hillman & Company
Cape Cod Climate Change Collab.
Clean Air Task Force
Climate Action Now, Western MA
Coalition for Social Justice
Elders Climate Action Massachusetts
Energy Efficiency Associates, LLC
Faith Communities Enviro. Network
Flashover LLC
Greater Boston Physicians for Social
Responsibility
Green Newton
Iron Workers Local 7
Lautec US Inc.
Massachusetts AFL-CIO
MCAN
Mills Public Relations
Mothers Out Front
Nashoba Conservation Trust
POWER-US | MA
Salem Alliance for the Environment
Self-Reliance
Vineyard Power Cooperative Inc.

Allies:

Sierra Club Massachusetts
Union of Concerned Scientists

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Charlie Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

We are a diverse group of advocates and institutions who are troubled by the language related to offshore wind in your January 14th letter vetoing the Next Generation Climate Bill.

First, we strongly support increasing the scale and pace of the Commonwealth's offshore wind procurements. We recognize the challenges inherent with contracts made independent from the wholesale markets, but those challenges do not outweigh their social and economic benefits. Like you, we eagerly await a future regional energy market that fairly values and incentivizes responsibly developed offshore wind. However, it would be a mistake to stop the pace of procurements to wait for it. With the 2016 Act to Promote Energy Diversity requiring the first large-scale state procurement of offshore wind energy, Massachusetts led the nation. Now, that leadership is eclipsed by the ambitious targets, strategic plans, and economic investments of states to our south whose Governors have recognized the powerful potential of state procurements of offshore wind to drive a green and just recovery. Massachusetts must reclaim our leadership by securing additional procurements.

Second, we strongly agree with your intention to deepen regional collaboration on energy market design that will advance our climate goals. However, this process must not preclude our efforts to advance offshore wind procurements with urgency. We sent a letter to the New England Governors on August 26, 2020 outlining our support of a regional approach to offshore wind and its procurements – this is our best path toward a clean

energy economy anchored by offshore wind. We urge you to use Massachusetts' natural leadership role to make New England a regional powerhouse for offshore wind.

Third, we are concerned about the implication in your letter that offshore wind procurements do not deliver benefits at least cost to Massachusetts ratepayers. The competitive RFP process for offshore wind has delivered incredibly low prices in-line with global cost reductions, and the resulting offshore wind contracts will save ratepayers billions of dollars. These compelling prices notwithstanding, today's prices are not the only economic consideration. This industry presents us with a unique opportunity to create a long-term economic engine for our region that would center equitable economic growth, job creation, and innovation—while reducing the negative health impacts of fossil fuel consumption and mitigating the effects that climate change is already having on our communities and economy.

Offshore wind can be developed in a responsible way that invests in local communities, and avoids, minimizes, and mitigates impacts to the environment and wildlife. We can require the industry to meet best practices for wildlife and environmental protection to protect critically endangered species. We can invest in research and innovation that will enable Massachusetts to lead the global energy transition. We can drive investment in a local workforce of the future. We can foster the use of apprenticeship and training programs so workers can transition from the fossil fuel economy. And we can encourage minority economic participation so that offshore wind benefits communities that have been historically overburdened by energy pollution.

Procurements will drive economic investment and revitalization in our region and give us the leverage we need to drive an equitable and just transition to a healthy, prosperous, and decarbonized economy. We support forthcoming legislation that will accomplish these goals and ensure that Massachusetts takes full advantage of this burgeoning industry.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Benson
The Alliance for Business Leadership
Co-Chair, Massachusetts State Committee
New England for Offshore Wind

Amber Hewett
National Wildlife Federation
Co-Chair, Massachusetts State Committee
New England for Offshore Wind

