



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

December 18, 2017

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Beaton:

Please accept this letter of support for the “Revolution Wind” proposal submitted by Deepwater Wind in response to the Commonwealth’s solicitation under section 83D of M.G.L. Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016.

Since day one of my tenure as Mayor of New Bedford, my Administration has steadfastly advocated for the creation of a new American offshore wind industry to expand opportunities for New Bedford’s residents and develop the green energy economy of the region and state. We have worked hard to build a strong public- and political consensus in support of the industry’s development here--understanding that unity is essential to long-run success.

We have not restricted our efforts to advocacy and coalition-building. We have also taken proactive steps to advance a wide-ranging policy agenda. The City has invested a considerable amount of financial, planning, and human resources to position New Bedford at the first-mover and emerging epicenter of offshore wind development in the United States.

The City of New Bedford created the New Bedford Wind Energy Center (NBWEC) to serve as the collaborative platform that builds local capacity and directly engages the offshore wind industry. Today, the Center remains the only organization of its kind in the United States.

We have also worked hard to make sure the growing excitement and interest that has developed here is heard in Washington and beyond. For instance, in May of this year, I led a trade mission comprised of twenty-two business, community, and educational leaders to the Humber region of the United Kingdom to see firsthand the job creation and economic development associated with offshore wind in that region.

In the course of our trip we visited offshore wind manufacturing, assembly, and deployment facilities in Hull as well as operation and maintenance facilities in Grimsby. We met with industry leaders to learn the “best practices” necessary to create a vibrant offshore wind industry cluster and to develop a better understanding about how to pursue those good ideas in the United States.

Our recent trip--like a previous trade mission in 2013 to Germany and Denmark--reaffirmed the local consensus that the City of New Bedford and its nation-leading port possess enormous inherent value as a location from which to assemble, deploy, and maintain the wind farms proposed for the federally designated Massachusetts and Rhode Island Wind Energy Areas.

The underlying strategic approach to these and other efforts is simple: First, we want to build upon the City’s rich, historic ties to the marine economy, retaining the port’s national leadership position in commercial fishing while integrating development opportunities in the Port’s offshore wind sector.

Second, we want to cultivate positive working relationships with the offshore wind industry, not merely for the City’s sake, but because we believe a record of effective local cooperation pays dividends for the industry and confers competitive advantages that ultimately translate into a broad industry disposition to set down roots in New Bedford.

That is why Deepwater Wind’s recognition of the critical importance of commercial fishing and its decision to reach out proactively to better understand and address concerns of the New Bedford fishing industry has been so well received by our offshore wind team and many other stakeholders in our community.

Deepwater’s conduct in the context of its Revolution Wind project is particularly instructive: Not only did Deepwater Wind commit its own staff to fishing-related matters, one of its very first steps was to recruit our own Harbor Development Commission to serve as the principal liaison to the fishing industry.

After careful assessment and extended discussions between our offshore wind development team and Deepwater Wind, I have come to the conclusion that Deepwater Wind’s commitment to use the Port of New Bedford for assembly and deployment of Revolution Wind’s wind towers and turbines (as well as for ongoing operation and maintenance activities) will have a significant impact on the City of New Bedford and the entire region.

It is estimated that the economic impacts associated with Revolution Wind project will exceed \$250 million dollars, create hundreds of construction jobs over a 2-3 year period, and add well-paying operation and maintenance jobs for more than three decades. And Deepwater Wind’s decision to pursue innovative research and training partnerships with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Bristol Community College, the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School, and the New Bedford Public School system, will go a long way toward advancing our workforce and education goals.

The offshore wind procurement decisions to be made by the Commonwealth in coming months will have lasting impact on New Bedford. It is therefore without hesitation that I offer my enthusiastic support for Deepwater Wind's Revolution Wind project. Selecting Deepwater Wind to provide a small portion of the total energy procured with the section 83D solicitation is a sound public policy decision, grounded firmly in concrete business commitments and quantifiable local benefits.

That said, I would be remiss not to also acknowledge the broader positives that extend well beyond Greater New Bedford. These include the critically important diversification of the state's supply of electric power, the solidification of the Commonwealth's national leadership in renewable energy, and the provision of clean energy at a competitive price to Massachusetts' ratepayers.

I believe that the work underway in your secretariat to procure offshore wind energy will have historic consequence, and that is why I encourage you to take action to ensure that the eminently worthy Revolution Wind project becomes part of our state's energy future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Mitchell
Mayor

CC: Governor Charles D. Baker, Jr.
Lt. Governor Karyn Polito
Jay Ash, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development
Judith Judson, Commissioner, Department of Energy Resources
Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Pacheco
Senator Mark Montigny
Senator Michael Rodrigues
Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad
Representative Antonio Cabral
Representative William Straus
Representative Christopher Markey
Representative Robert Koczera
Representative Paul Schmid
Patrick Woodcock, Assistant Secretary of Energy, EOEEA
Rebecca Tepper, Chief, Energy Division, Office of the Mass. Attorney General