

October 13, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

S. Elizabeth Birnbaum, Director  
Minerals Management Service  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re: Cape Wind Offshore Wind Energy Project**

Dear Secretary Salazar and Director Birnbaum:

The undersigned environmental, clean energy and labor stakeholders applaud your support for responsible renewable energy development, and join you in recognizing the considerable – *but as yet untapped* – potential of clean energy projects in the ocean waters of the United States.

We believe it is essential that the United States move forward now to translate these critical objectives into real action. When you assumed your current offices, you inherited a legacy of delay that put this nation's offshore renewable energy program years behind the successful efforts of many other nations. The most obvious, visible and reasonable way to break past this inertia is to move forward expeditiously with final approval and leasing of the pioneering 130-turbine Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts.

Through some eight years of rigorous environmental and permitting review, the Cape Wind project has demonstrated that its environmental benefits are expected to significantly outweigh its impacts. The project holds tremendous promise for powering up to three-quarters of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket with approximately 450 Megawatts of emissions-free electricity, while spurring an entire sector of much-needed clean energy development. In addition, as the nation and the world look to the Administration for leadership in addressing climate change, there is no question that the Cape Wind project carries tremendous symbolic importance.

We therefore respectfully urge you to bring to a close the pending National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process for the Cape Wind project, and enter a favorable Record of Decision without further delay. Contrary to the assertions of a handful of project opponents, the approximately 560 square miles of unenclosed ocean water known as Nantucket Sound are not appropriate for listing on the National Register

as a “Traditional Cultural Property” under the NHPA. Moreover, such a drastic departure from longstanding practice and precedent would have a far-reaching chilling effect on responsible offshore renewable energy development in federal and state waters, just as MMS endeavors to unleash the OCS Alternative Energy program and Massachusetts strives to finalize and implement its first-in-the-nation Ocean Management Plan.

Cape Wind will concretely advance the Administration’s objectives in addressing the challenge of global warming while promoting energy security and economic development. Following an extremely lengthy and rigorous review, approval of the Cape Wind project *now* will send a critical message to the renewable energy development community and will help lay the strongest possible foundation for offshore wind energy development in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Reid, Senior Attorney  
Director, Massachusetts Clean Energy & Climate Change Initiative  
*Conservation Law Foundation*  
sreid@clf.org

Margaret R. LaCroix  
Vice President, Marketing and Communications  
*American Lung Association of New England*  
mlacroix@lungne.org

Gerard Dhooge  
President  
*Boston & New England Maritime Trades Council, AFL-CIO*  
npsgjd@verizon.net

Megan C. Amsler  
Executive Director  
*Cape & Islands Self-Reliance Corp.*  
megan@reliance.org

Pam Solo  
President  
*Civil Society Institute*  
psolotls@aol.com

Korin N. Petersen, Esq.  
Vice President, Advocacy  
*The Coalition for Buzzards Bay*  
petersen@savebuzzardsbay.org

Barbara Hill  
Executive Director  
*Clean Power Now*  
bhill@cleanpowernow.org

Ben Wright  
Global Warming Advocate  
*Environment Massachusetts*  
ben@environmentmassachusetts.org

George Bachrach  
President  
*Environmental League of Massachusetts*  
gbachrach@environmentalleague.org

Kert Davies  
Research Director  
*Greenpeace USA*  
kdavies@greenpeace.org

Martha Dansdill  
Executive Director  
*Health Link*  
healthlink@healthlink.org

Edwin D. Hill  
International President  
*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

Michael P. Monahan  
Business Manager  
*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 103*  
mmonahan@ibew103.com

David W. Fenton  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 223*  
dfenton@ibew223.org

John J. Clarke  
Director of Public Policy & Government Relations  
*Mass Audubon*  
jclarke@massaudubon.org

Rob Garrity  
Executive Director  
*Mass Climate Action Network*  
rob.garrity@gmail.com

Larry Chretien  
Executive Director  
Energy Consumers Alliance of New England  
dba - *Mass Energy Consumers Alliance and People's Power & Light*  
larry@massenergy.org

David Borrus  
Business Representative  
*Pile Drivers Local 56*  
dnbl56@hotmail.com

Alan Noguee  
Director, Clean Energy Program  
*Union of Concerned Scientists*  
anoguee@ucsusa.org

George Woodwell, Ph.D.  
Woods Hole, MA  
gmwoodwell@whrc.org