

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2104

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Matthew H. Nelson
Chair, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
1 South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Chairman Nelson,

I write to urge your careful attention to Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Regulation 220 C.M.R. § 23.00 when reviewing final contracts for offshore wind development. This section of the code establishes the framework for purchasing power from offshore wind generators in order to help facilitate the financing of offshore wind projects. Among other things, this regulation stipulates that the contract between an electric distribution company and offshore wind energy developer must be with a resource that “create[s] and foster[s] employment and economic development in Massachusetts, where feasible.” (220 C.M.R. § 23.05(1)(a)(8).¹ Compliance with this entire provision is essential to the success of the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth and the burgeoning clean energy economy in Massachusetts.

The DPU should ensure that long-term contracts for offshore wind comply with both the economic development and local hiring provisions. The 804 megawatt Mayflower Wind Project long-term contracts currently under consideration would support a \$77 million commitment to economic development in the Commonwealth, including \$55 million for the creation of an Offshore Wind Development Fund within the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and \$7.5 million for port upgrades.² However, funding for research and infrastructure alone cannot generate the momentum needed for the Commonwealth to lead the nation in offshore wind. These commitments must be paired with a promise to partner with skilled local unions and foster employment opportunities in the Commonwealth. Project labor agreements with local workers at prevailing wage and with strong labor protections will ensure Massachusetts has the dedicated skilled labor union workforce needed and ready to harness the vast potential of this industry.

Massachusetts has the second highest percentage of clean energy jobs in the United States.³ With an 84 percent increase in clean energy jobs since 2010, Massachusetts is a hotbed for renewable energy development.⁴ This is particularly true for the offshore wind industry, as the Commonwealth is home to the first ever utility-scale offshore wind farm and more than 400

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/doc/220-cmr-23-competitively-solicited-long-term-contracts-for-clean-energy/download>

² <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/FileService.Api/file/FileRoom/11785470>

³ <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/clean-energy-rankingsprogress>

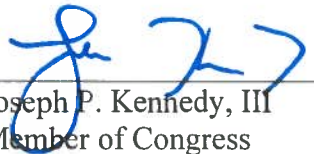
⁴ Id.

qualified local contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers prepared to serve offshore wind.⁵ Massachusetts's status as a growing hub for offshore wind will streamline and expedite future efforts by offshore wind developers to partner with local businesses and hire local union workers. Additionally, tapping into the wealth of business opportunities within the Commonwealth will increase any proposed project's profitability by reducing transportation costs, which can skyrocket when hardware must be shipped over long distances.

I commend the DPU, the Department of Energy Resources, the Baker Administration, the State Legislature, and all involved parties on their efforts to support the growing offshore wind industry and reduce the Commonwealth's dependence on fossil fuels. These contracts have the potential to revolutionize the way we power our state and region and empower a generation of workers. As Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides said, we must ensure that "Massachusetts workers are leading the way" as the Commonwealth ushers the nation into a new era of offshore wind development.⁶

I appreciate your consideration of this request and stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

CC: Commissioner Hayden and Commissioner Fraser

⁵ <https://www.masscec.com/massachusetts-offshore-wind-supply-chain-directory>

⁶ <https://www.mass.gov/news/project-selected-to-increase-offshore-wind-energy-in-the-commonwealth>