

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 2019

The Honorable Secretary David Bernhardt
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mail Stop 6242
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

The Honorable Secretary Wilbur Ross
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 5421
14th Street and Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Bernhardt and Secretary Ross,

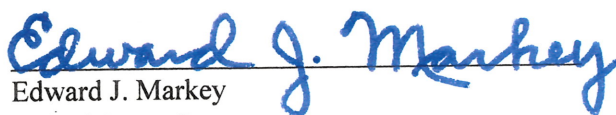
We write regarding the supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Vineyard Wind offshore energy project. As you know, the company is overseeing the development of the nation's first utility scale offshore wind energy project which the company says will generate enough power for approximately 400,000 homes.

We respect the need to do a cumulative impact analysis and understand the precedent this project will establish for permitting future offshore wind energy projects. It is important the Departments consider concerns and evaluate all options to mitigate impacts to the New England commercial fishing industry and the environment. However, we also believe it is possible for multiple industries to coexist in mixed use regions offshore. Therefore, we encourage your agencies to judiciously evaluate these questions to identify necessary steps to address any concerns, finalize the supplemental EIS promptly, and mitigate any additional delay that may threaten the overall project.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, the Vineyard Wind project will save Massachusetts ratepayers approximately 3.5cents/kWh, or \$35.29/megawatt-hours (MWh) on average over the term of the contract with total net benefits of approximately \$1.4 billion. The project also has the potential to reduce the State's reliance on imported fuel including from some countries which may not share America's values or commitment to protecting the environment.¹ Further, Louisiana and Gulf Coast companies that have decades of experience working in the Gulf of Mexico are eager to make needed investments to support this project and future offshore wind energy projects.

We urge your Departments to work together to find a solution that will address concerns raised by stakeholders, protect the environment, and allow the Vineyard Wind project to remain viable. We thank you both for your prompt attention to this issue and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

¹ <https://macleanenergy.files.wordpress.com/2018/08/doer-83c-filing-letter-dpu-18-76-18-77-18-78august-1-2018.pdf>



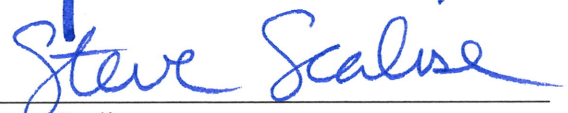
John Kennedy
United States Senator



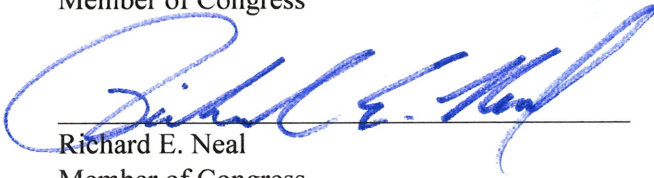
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



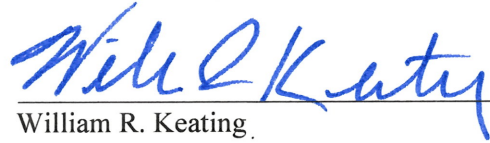
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress

CC:
NOAA Acting Administrator Dr. Neil Jacobs
BOEM Acting Director Dr. Walter Cruikshank