

COMMITTEES

ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
CHAIRMAN

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
GLOBAL WARMING
CHAIRMAN

NATURAL RESOURCES

EDWARD J. MARKEY
7TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

2108 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2107
(202) 225-2836

DISTRICT OFFICES:

5 HIGH STREET, SUITE 101
MEDFORD, MA 02155
(781) 396-2900

188 CONCORD STREET, SUITE 102
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702
(508) 875-2900

<http://markey.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

I applaud your commitment to a thorough and effective consultation process for the Cape Wind project. It is my hope that all of the parties involved will be able to come to an agreement and determine any possible mitigation measures that will allow the project to move forward with broad stakeholder agreement. In addition, I support your efforts to finalize a decision on the Cape Wind project by April of this year.

I strongly support the development of renewable energy. Developing onshore and offshore wind projects is an essential element of creating a clean energy economy for our nation and for New England. Your Department has estimated that there is 1 million megawatts of wind energy potential offshore in the Atlantic. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, nearly one-fifth of the wind energy potential off the East Coast is located off the coast of New England. Approving the Cape Wind project will allow the United States to begin to utilize this tremendous offshore renewable energy resource and create jobs across the region.

Over the last few years, the Interior Department has completed an extensive review of the environmental impact of the Cape Wind Project. Since this project was the first offshore wind development proposed for the U.S. coastline, I believed that it was vital that the environmental review be done correctly. The Cape Wind project has now successfully passed its environmental review and I commend your dedication to ensuring that the current consultation process is comprehensive, and includes the active involvement of all stakeholders.

Moving forward with the Cape Wind project would allow us to realize the promise of this and other offshore renewable energy projects. I support your decision to reach a final resolution on the project in the coming months. I urge you to approve the Cape Wind project because I believe it would be an important step towards creating a clean energy economy in the United States that will create jobs and reduce global warming pollution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress