



Senator Michael J. Barrett 02133

Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

24 Beacon Street

Boston, MA

Representative Jeffrey N. Roy

Chair, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

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Support for

H.3161 Act Strengthening Massachusetts as the national leader in offshore wind; S.2169 An Act to expand offshore wind development in the Commonwealth

Dear Chair Barrett, Chair Roy, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of SAFE (Salem Alliance for the Environment) and residents of Salem, home to the next Offshore Wind Port in the Commonwealth, I am speaking today in strong support of S.2169, sponsored by Sen. Marc Pacheco, and H.3161, sponsored by Rep. Dylan Fernandes. These bills address many of the critical issues that we are facing in Salem, poised as we are at the nexus of the exciting emergence of offshore wind in the Southeast region of our state around New Bedford and Martha's Vineyard and to the north in the new frontier of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine.

As both a Gateway City and an Environmental Justice city, Salem welcomes the huge opportunity that this revolutionary industry of offshore wind--assuring us clean renewable energy and promising good family supporting union jobs--offers to our residents and those of similar communities nearby such as Lynn, Peabody, Chelsea, Lawrence, and Gloucester.

Salem is very familiar with the promise of offshore wind. In the 18th century, our community was at the heart of the age of the clipper ship and foreign trade that brought great riches to some in Salem and beyond. Evidence of the great wealth that came to some people in Salem from those offshore wind enterprises is in the stately architecture of the Chestnut Street Neighborhood or Hamilton Hall or the holdings of the Peabody Essex Museum. That wealth persists, and we invite you to visit and appreciate it. But we also want you to think about the workers who made that wealth possible.

What persists are the challenges for the working men and women of Salem who in the 18th century and today lived or live in more modest and sometimes even severely challenged housing situations. There is a tale of two cities in Salem: the tale of those who extracted great wealth from the use of offshore wind and the tale of those who survived working in dangerous conditions for subsistence wages that did not support a family and who then had to live in less than adequate and healthy housing conditions.

Of course, the neighborhood where most new immigrants live and get their first foothold in Salem, The Point Neighborhood, is far different from the Chestnut Street Neighborhood. Like many immigrant neighborhoods it is densely packed and suffers from food and housing insecurity but, of course, contributes enormous power in terms of workforce, culture, and the overall vibrancy of our city.

SAFE working in alliance with our partners in the Point Neighborhood Association and the Latino Leadership Coalition are committed to assuring that the Offshore Wind Revolution is more than an extractive exercise in wealth attainment for the more privileged and is poised to bring good paying family supporting jobs. The gap of opportunity for all can be bridged to some degree by a carefully thought out and equitable workforce development process that provides opportunity to all. We have people in Salem and in our surrounding communities who want jobs in OSW—who want equitable opportunity.

Those opportunities can come with expanded development. Sen. Pacheco's bill **S.2169 An Act to expand offshore wind development in the Commonwealth** calls for an expanded procurement for our state of 12,000 megawatts of power not later than June 30, 2030, and for an increasing procurement to keep Massachusetts in a leadership position maximizing opportunities for clean renewable energy and jobs. Expanding our state's participation in this industry will be good for Salem and the Commonwealth. We applaud Senator Pacheco for always looking at the future possibilities of offshore wind.

Likewise Representative Dylan Fernandes in **H.3161 An Act Strengthening Massachusetts as the national leader in offshore wind** has done much appreciated work in the crafting of a more equitable future. SAFE is particularly supportive of these sections of this bill:

Section 3, which like Senator Pacheco's bill increases the procurement of offshore energy;

Section 6, which proposes additional criteria for bid selection, noting that the Department of Energy Resources may condition bids on employment opportunities for residents of communities adjacent to construction sites, employment opportunities to citizens (for at least six months) of the Commonwealth, and maximization in investment in port infrastructure;

Section 7, which makes OSW construction/maintenance public works projects, thereby giving preference of employment to veterans, then MA residents, then U.S. citizens (for at least six months). This also includes requiring prevailing wage rules;

Section 8, which prioritizes offshore wind careers via workforce training in various education institutions;

Section 9, which requires the Mass Clean Energy Center to create a report, based on a ports assessment, that outlines when and how the state should repurpose each port to support OSW;

Section 10, which calls for \$200 million to the OSW Investment Fund, specifically for port infrastructure;

Section 11, which highlights Environmental Justice considerations, including requiring EEA to conduct a study to explore potential benefits of investments in port infrastructure in Environmental Justice communities; and

Section 12, which calls for Project Labor Agreements for all port-related developments.

The bills of both Sen. Pacheco and Rep. Fernandes serve to position the Commonwealth to maximize the benefits of the emerging OSW industry. Communities like Salem are looking to you to provide us with the economic and political structures that will allow a city like Salem to lead the way in showing what an equitably sourced workforce can look like and accomplish.

SAFE is centering justice—environmental and social justice--in all our work. It is only with a laser focus on justice that we all can bring equity to all neighborhoods in Salem and beyond.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Gozemba

Co-Chair SAFE

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