



President Barack Obama
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August 6, 2012

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of our fourteen leading labor and environmental partners, together representing over 15 million members, we urge you to continue to support the responsible and timely development of our offshore wind energy resources. In your Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future you emphasized an “all-of-the-above” approach to America’s 21st century clean energy economy. We ask you to hold fast to that spirit by providing the political guidance for this new American energy source.

Federal leadership is critically needed to spur the development of vast, untapped offshore wind energy resources along the Atlantic coast. Offshore wind is positioned to play an increasingly important role in powering our homes, businesses, and vehicles while reducing pollution, creating good-paying jobs, and moving our states and our nation toward energy independence.

If structured correctly, a robust offshore wind industry in the United States would help ensure a strong domestic manufacturing infrastructure, create decent, family-sustaining jobs and maintain the delicate ecological resources where these facilities are sited.

The Department of Energy’s goal of 54 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030 would reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking roughly 18 million cars off the road. Coastal states, in particular, would benefit from a clean energy source close to cities, requiring less infrastructure to construct, transport, operate and transmit offshore wind energy to population centers.

Your administration has taken landmark first steps in streamlining regulatory processes, ensuring this new energy industry comes online in an effective, responsible and timely manner. Department of Interior’s “Smart from the Start” program has worked quickly to identify wind energy areas and advance the leasing process in federal waters off the coast of the Atlantic. Department of Energy’s Offshore Wind Innovation and Demonstration initiative has ambitiously set out to lower technological hurdles, speed deployment and reduce market barriers.

Leaders across the country stand behind the build out of our offshore wind capacity. A recent letter from the National Governors Association fully supports offshore wind and encourages their specific incentives. These initiatives make sense in stewarding a 21st Century clean energy economy and make sense for good, clean energy jobs.

We urge you to continue to push for a comprehensive clean energy approach that includes an offshore wind industry structured to benefit the American worker, American wildlife and the American consumer through the following efforts:

Financial Signals:

Federal support and the appropriate investment market signals are vital to maintaining the progress already achieved in the offshore wind industry, and advancing it to a mature, competitive energy source. We support a long-term extension of the Investment Tax Credit for offshore wind, Production Tax Credit, Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit (48C) and Section 1603 Treasury Grant Program.

Responsible Siting:

Priorities for offshore wind development must begin with a considered approach to facility siting. We ask that your administration continue to weigh environmental, economic and cultural resources considerably when determining wind energy production areas.

Economic and Labor Benefits:

Offshore wind relies heavily on advanced manufacturing and skilled labor. It is integral, for maximum economic benefit to be reaped by the American economy, that construction and components must be sourced domestically. The size and scale of offshore wind turbines necessitate local manufacturing and construction, leading to significant high quality job creation in the areas where they will be deployed. Further, occupational safety must be emphasized in construction and operation of offshore wind facilities.

Continued Administration Support:

The great push by federal agencies to establish offshore wind as a renewable, clean and domestic source of energy has advanced many project timelines. It is critical that these programs remain effective to ensure achievement of their initial goals and efficacy of the industry. We urge you to continue to provide administrative support.

The BlueGreen Alliance stands with you and your administration in taking the necessary steps to move our country towards a secure 21st century, clean energy economy – strengthened by a vibrant offshore wind industry – that stands with the American worker.

Sincerely,



David A. Foster
Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance

