



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE GENERAL COURT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

March 27, 2009

Secretary Ken Salazar
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We, the undersigned, want to voice our support of the Cape Wind project and to respectfully request that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) of the U.S. Department of Interior issue a favorable Record of Decision and Lease to Cape Wind, as soon as possible.

On January 16, 2009 the MMS issued a highly favorable Final Environmental Impact Statement on Cape Wind, a full and complete document that encapsulated the work of numerous Federal and State agencies that have worked for seven years on the permitting process for Cape Wind.

The need for renewable energy projects in and offshore Massachusetts has never been greater. In 2008 the Massachusetts Legislature passed and Governor Patrick signed the Green Communities Act, a comprehensive energy reform bill that doubles the rate of increase in the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) from 0.5 percent per year to 1 percent per year, with no cap. The Green Communities Act favors renewable energy projects in and offshore the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to maximize the local economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy development and production.

As you may be aware, Massachusetts was the first State in the Nation to enact an RPS in 1997 as part of a broader electric restructuring act. Cape Wind is exactly the type of project the Massachusetts RPS and the Green Communities Act were designed to encourage, a project that can deliver significant quantities of clean renewable energy to Massachusetts that will create jobs, reduce our dependence on imported energy and improve environmental quality.

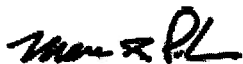
Cape Wind will also provide the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with one of the many initiatives that are needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the targets of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Massachusetts Energy and Environment Secretary Ian Bowles has noted that building Cape Wind would be like removing 175,000 cars from the road each year in terms of reduced regional greenhouse gas emissions. Massachusetts must do its part to confront the challenges of global climate change. Our coastline, including Cape Cod and the Islands of

Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, is vulnerable to rising sea levels and inundation that loom unless significant worldwide action is taken quickly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Cape Wind represents an example of the type of action that needs to be taken across the country and the world to responsibly confront the challenge of climate change. It is fitting that visitors from all over the world that come to Cape Cod and the Islands will see America's first offshore wind farm here and will associate Massachusetts with a forward looking and hopeful energy policy.

Given the economic challenges now facing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the creation of hundreds of new jobs to build the Cape Wind project has never been more important. With a timely approval and construction of Cape Wind, Massachusetts will be poised to become home to America's first offshore wind farm. We believe the potential for offshore clean energy production is vast and more projects will follow in the future off the coast of Massachusetts and other coastal U.S. states. Having the nation's first offshore wind farm will help confer upon the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a first mover advantage. This advantage will position Massachusetts as a global leader in offshore renewable energy development and in turn create thousands of new jobs in this emerging economic sector in the years to come, further enhancing the quality of life and economic opportunities for the citizens of Massachusetts.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Marc R. Pacheco
Chair
*Senate Committee on Global Warming
& Climate Change*



Steven A. Baddour
Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation



Senator Patricia D. Jehlen
Chair
Joint Committee on Elder Affairs



Robert L. Hedlund
Minority Whip