

Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
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December 1, 2008

The Honorable Donald L. Carcieri
Governor of the State of Rhode Island
State House, Room 115
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 11/25/08 meeting to discuss industry questions regarding proposed offshore wind farm project attended by the following: Stacy Ambrozik of Governor's Policy Office; Director W. Michael Sullivan and Bob Ballou of RI DEM; Commissioner Andrew Dzykowicz of Office of Energy Resources; Ames Colt, Chair of RI Bays Rivers & Watershed Coordination Team; Chris Brown of RI Commercial Fishermen's Assoc., Lanny Dellinger and Bill McElroy of RI Lobstermen's Assoc., Russ Wallis of Ocean State Fishermen's Assoc., David Spencer of Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association, Ted Platz of RI Monkfishermen's Association; Kate O'Malley of Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island.

Dear Governor Carcieri:

On November 25, 2008, leaders of the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island had the opportunity to meet with members of your staff. I am writing on their behalf to express our thanks for the time extended us and for the constructive discussion held regarding the State's desire to work closely with the RI commercial fishing industry as the proposal for an offshore wind farm project moves forward.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to present the enclosed list of questions on behalf of our collective association members who are eager to learn more about this project. It is our goal to stay well informed and the written responses to our memo which were promised will be a great help to us as we continue to communicate with our various members. Our sense from your representatives was that you recognize the unique nature of the fishing industry's relationship to this project both as a key stakeholder group and as a resource with special expertise of value to the planning and implementation of this project. We were pleased to receive assurances that the State is looking for industry to be meaningfully engaged.

In turn, the RI commercial fishing industry recognizes that the State is currently in the forefront nationally and that this is an unprecedented, first of a kind project. It will be looked upon as a national model as this technology advances up and down the coastlines of our nation. We are agreed that there is much at stake here. It is our hope that we can effectively participate in making this a national success, sharing in the benefits of the wind farm with our fellow RI citizens without bearing a disproportionate burden.

We look forward to the opportunity to work together and thank you for your consideration and assistance in helping us to keep our membership informed and engaged.

Sincerely,



Christopher Brown
Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island
Email: CFCenterRI@gmail.com

Enclosure

Cc:

- Stacy Ambroziak, Governor's Policy Office
- Director W. Michael Sullivan, RI Department of Environmental Management
- Commissioner Andrew Dzykowicz, RI Office of Energy Resources
- Robert Ballou, RI Department of Environmental Management
- Ames Colt, RI Bays, Rivers, & Watershed Coordination Team, RI DEM
- Commercial Fisheries Center of RI - Member Association Leaders
- Peg Petruny-Parker, Executive Director, Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
- Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts
- Rep. William J. Murphy, Speaker, RI House of Representatives
- Senator Joseph A. Montalbano, President, RI Senate
- Senator M. Teresa Paiva-Weed, Majority Leader, RI Senate
- Senator Susan Sosnowski, Chair, Environment and Agriculture Committee, RI Senate
- Rep. Gordon D. Fox, Majority Leader, RI House of Representatives
- Rep. Jan P. Malik, Chair, Environment and Natural Resources Committee, RI House of Representatives,
- Rep. Eileen Naughton, Chair, Environmental Accountability Committee, RI House of Representatives
- U.S. Senator Jack Reed
- U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- U.S. Representative James Langevin
- U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy
- Saul Kaplan, Executive Director, RI Economic Development Corporation
- Michael M. Tikoian, Chair, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
- Grover Fugate, Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council, Project Manager, Ocean SAMP
- John Pappalardo, Chair, New England Fisheries Management Council
- Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fisheries Management Council
- George D. Lapointe, Chair, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- John Vince O'Shea, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Enclosure:

Memorandum

Date: Nov. 25, 2008

To: Chris Long, Policy Advisor for Governor Donald Carcieri

From: RI Commercial Fisheries Center – Leaders of RI commercial fishermen’s associations: RI Commercial Fishermen’s Association, RI Lobstermen’s Association, Ocean State Fishermen’s Association, Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen’s Association

Re: Meeting to discuss questions about proposed offshore wind farm project

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us. We have a series of questions we would appreciate receiving Governor Carcieri’s responses to. Members of our commercial fishermen associations are eager to learn more about the plans to construct an offshore wind farm. As industry leaders, our goal is to stay well informed on their behalf, and to provide accurate information to our members so the commercial fishing industry can have a meaningful and constructive role as this proposal idea moves forward.

There is confusion about the planning and implementation process for the proposed wind farm. It would be very helpful if we could provide answers to the following questions:

Process:

- There appear to be two different stakeholder processes involved: 1) the stakeholder process that was run by Peregrine Energy Group Inc. which concluded with a final report issued in February 2008, and 2) the stakeholder process that has just begun in connection with the Ocean SAM Plan process. How will these two processes come together?
- Who will make the final decision about the size and location of the offshore wind farm?
- What is RI DEM’s role in the decision-making process?
- How does the commercial fishing industry fit into the decision-making process?

Implementation of Wind Farm Proposal:

- Is there a Design Team now working on the wind farm proposal? If not, when will one be formed?
- If so, will the commercial fishing industry be given an opportunity to work with the Design Team to help find the best solutions to any potential impact problems?
- Will the commercial fishing industry be given an opportunity to be involved in the processes of site selection, construction planning, and monitoring?

Research Needs:

- The Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation recently wrote a letter to the Governor regarding its concerns about the lack of fisheries related field research in the Ocean SAM Plan research program underway. What is the Governor’s response to the concerns raised in that letter?
- What are the Governor’s plans for correcting the lack of fisheries related field research?
- Will there be additional funding issued for research to address potential impacts to commercially important species harvested in offshore waters?

Jurisdictions:

- What is the process for working with federal agencies that exercise jurisdiction in federal waters?
- How will the federal and regional fisheries governance structure i.e. New England Fisheries Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission be brought into this offshore wind farm proposal and Ocean SAM Plan planning process?

General:

- How can the RI commercial fishing industry best work with you and the directors of state agencies to help move the wind farm proposal forward without unduly jeopardizing the interests of the RI commercial fishing fleet?

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us.