

Increasing New York State's Offshore Wind Goals to 20 Gigawatts by 2050

May 31, 2023

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins
New York State Senate
907 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
New York State Assembly
932 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Support for S. 6327/A. 7407 and Increasing New York State's Offshore Wind Goals to 20 Gigawatts by 2050

Dear Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie,

We write on behalf of a growing coalition of stakeholders to express our support for S. 6327/A. 7407 (Kavanagh/Barrett), which would increase the State's offshore wind electricity generation target for 2035 established by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and establish new ambitious targets for 2040, 2045, and 2050. Though these dates may seem far away, establishing increased targets now can inform the infrastructure decisions that New York State needs to make in the short-term, including transmission upgrades, supply chain, and port modernization, by providing the context and level of offshore wind power needed.

Our organizations proudly support New York's ambitious clean energy goals of achieving 70% clean energy by 2030, and 100% clean energy by 2040. A critical element of this bold clean energy goal is the development of offshore wind off the coast of New York State, where as you know wind is one of our most promising natural resources. This legislation would set in statute an increase from the current goal of 9 gigawatts (GW) of offshore energy by 2035 to 9.9 GW and establish three additional targets: 15.8 GW by 2040, 18 GW by 2045, and 20 GW by 2050. The industry is poised for rapid expansion, built with union labor including construction under project labor agreements and operated and maintained under labor peace agreements. New York State is becoming a national leader as we transition to sustainable renewable energy.

Passing this legislation would advance New York as a national model and as a hub for the offshore wind industry on the east coast. New York will be in a unique position of supporting the supply chain of offshore wind, creating thousands of good union labor jobs and millions of dollars in economic benefits. This effort will lead our state in the direction of a decarbonized grid, while growing the middle class and making New York a more sustainable and healthier place to live.

Expediently investing in the development of offshore wind and offshore wind port infrastructure will be critical to the success of the entire offshore wind industry nationally, as well as our state's ability to achieve its ambitious climate and clean energy goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2040 and net zero emissions by 2050. We look forward to continuing New York's ambitious energy goals, and to achieving the full environmental and economic benefits of offshore wind for New York State.

Sincerely,

Julie Tighe
President
New York League of Conservation Voters

Adrienne Esposito
Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Shay O'Reilly
New York Senior Organizing Representative
Sierra Club

Williams Banfield
Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer
North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

Fred Zalcman
Director
New York Offshore Wind Alliance

Lenore Friedlaender
Executive Director
Climate Jobs NY

Conor Bambrick
Director of Policy
Environmental Advocates of NY

Cc:
Senator Brian Kavanagh
Assemblymember Didi Barret