



**Testimony of Carlos Castell Croke
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**City Council Committee on Environmental Conservation
Oversight Hearing
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Good afternoon, my name is Carlos Castell Croke and I am the Associate for New York City Programs at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 30,000 members in New York City and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, our neighborhoods, and our economy healthier and more resilient. We would like to thank Chair Constantinides for holding this important hearing and for the opportunity to testify today.

New York City and State in the past few years have made significant commitments to reducing fossil fuel emissions and fighting climate change. The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), Climate Mobilization Act, and OneNYC 2050 are all groundbreaking commitments to sustainability that are leading us in the right direction toward a clean energy economy. In order to achieve these goals, we must meet the CLCPA's goal of building nine gigawatts of offshore wind by 2035. Much of the procurement and policy needed to advance offshore wind is happening at the state level, but there are still actions that New York City can take to ensure that the transition to sustainable offshore wind energy is cost effective, competitive, and well executed.

First, the City must work with offshore developers and utilities to establish an efficient and effective way to connect to the grid. Coordination of siting transmission lines, interconnections and infrastructure will be a complex process that involves multiple jurisdictions and communities. We will need the City's help to make sure that these transmission projects are sited and built efficiently, including making sure that we have enough appropriately zoned sites reserved for interconnection.

Second, the City will also play an instrumental role in establishing and developing offshore wind industrial ports. Ports such as those proposed at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal and the Arthur Kill Terminal will need significant investments so that they can facilitate and be

involved in construction and installation projects and associated supply chains. These ports will create jobs as the city recovers from the pandemic, providing a much needed boost to our economy. New York City has already allocated some investments to port development but we would like to see even more to help projects grow faster. In addition to developing the port infrastructure necessary for offshore wind, the City should also be connecting environmental justice communities to job training and placement with offshore wind companies, many of whom have shown a willingness to do their part to achieve climate justice. A just transition requires that we make sure that the New Yorkers who have been most harmed by our reliance on fossil fuels will also benefit from the green economy.

Additionally, attention should be given to retaining workers previously employed by fossil fuel related industries and tapping them for these green jobs.

Third, numerous permits and reviews will be necessary for construction of facilities to support the development of the offshore wind industry. The City must ensure that permitting to facilitate bringing offshore wind and associated supply and assembly work to New York is done as quickly as possible while also providing appropriate environmental reviews and community input.

We are on the precipice of a shift to a clean energy economy, a shift New York must be at the front of, a shift that will rely heavily on offshore wind, in particular in New York City, to fight climate change, reduce reliance on polluting power sources, and ensure a just transition. The City's role in support of the implementation and operation of offshore wind energy is integral in efforts to establish green ports, and site transition lines and converter stations that will help us reach our carbon neutrality goals city and state-wide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.