

February 29, 2024

Chairman CT Wilson Room 231 House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Bill:** HB1296 - Electricity - Offshore Wind Projects – Alterations **Organization:** RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC **Position:** Support

Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee:

RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC (RWE) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on House Bill 1296. RWE, along with its global affiliates, is a leader in offshore wind energy, active across the entire value chain, from project conception and development to construction as well as operation and maintenance. The unparalleled expertise the company has earned over the last 20 years has resulted in 19 offshore wind farms in operation along with two floating wind demonstration projects. RWE has been awarded three leases by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Our U.S. offshore wind development portfolio now totals approximately 6 gigawatts, including a New York Bight lease area with our joint venture partner National Grid Ventures, known as Community Offshore Wind, a Gulf of Mexico lease area, and a northern California lease area, known as Canopy Offshore Wind Farm.

RWE is enthusiastic about partnering with the State of Maryland to achieve its ambitious renewable energy objectives. By leveraging our expertise and resources in alignment with the state's vision, we aim to play a collaborative role in developing and executing the required comprehensive plan to reach the mandated 8,500 megawatts of offshore wind energy capacity by 2031. Please consider us a valuable resource as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kate McKeever

Kate McKeever Vice President, Head of Government Affairs – Offshore U.S. RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC <u>Kate.McKeever@rwe.com</u>