

March 20, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Regarding HB1296 - Electricity - Offshore Wind Projects - Alterations

Dear Senators:

I am writing to request a NO vote on this legislation.

I have looked into the issue of Offshore Wind, and I find nothing positive for Ocean City. There have been so many untruths told by the developer(s) regarding the height, number and location of the turbines that it is difficult to trust anything US Wind says (or Orsted before it pulled out and of course now, apparently, is coming back looking for increased funding from Maryland taxpayers).

My main concern is our commercial and recreational fishing industry - neither can co-exist with offshore wind farms. I would strongly suggest that all members of the committee watch the documentary "Bonnie Brady's Crash Course in Offshore Wind and the Anti-Fishing Lobby". At the time I watched this, I was generally against offshore wind, but without a specific reason - just thought it was a really bad idea. After watching, I became an activist and started reading and researching, and as I did I became more and more opposed and frankly very afraid of what would happen to my beloved Ocean City, and the fishing industry.

One fact that most people do not know is that the turbines must be regularly "cooled", which is done by drawing ocean water into electrical substations using a "once through" cooling system- this system is now prohibited in newer power plants because of the devastating effects on aquatic life. The cooling water drawn into the substation is then discharged back into the ocean at a temperature of over 90 degrees fahrenheit. Just imagine the devastating effect this will have on water temperature and marine life and habitat. There are currently four substations planned for the farm off the coast of Ocean City. In addition to watching Bonnie Brady's documentary, I would suggest everyone read the article "Offshore Wind Electrical Substations - The Secret, Silent Killers" by Jim Lovgren at Fisherynation.com.

This is just one of the incredibly harmful issues with the offshore wind farms - there are hundreds more but time and space do not allow me to list them all.

PLEASE, PLEASE do not do this to Ocean City and our commercial fishing industry.

America has improved its "carbon footprint" more than just about any nation on Earth in the last couple of decades - the problem countries are China and India - it is beyond useless and horribly destructive to push this kind of policy here in America while China and India are doing nothing.

Thank you for your consideration.

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