



Worcester County Government

One West Market Street | Room 1103 | Snow Hill MD 21863-1195

(410) 632-1194 | (410) 632-3131 (fax) | admin@co.worcester.md.us | www.co.worcester.md.us

March 13, 2024

Delegate C. T. Wilson
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
ct.wilson@house.state.md.us

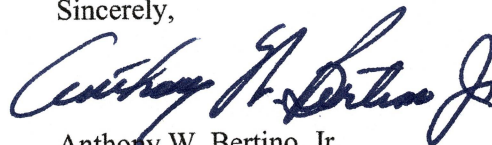
Delegate Brian M. Crosby
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
brian.crosby@house.state.md.us

Dear Economic Matters Chair Delegate Wilson, Vice Chair Delegate Crosby, and members:

The Worcester County Commissioners strenuously oppose HB 1296 Electricity – Offshore Wind Projects – Alterations. This bill has immense implications to Maryland energy ratepayers and property owners, as companies like US Wind, Inc. rely heavily on taxpayer subsidies. If US Wind, Inc. lacks the financial wherewithal to cover startup costs, it is unfair to strap Marylanders with the responsibility to fund this project. It is important to note that, though the fragility of offshore wind has become increasingly evident by the cancellation of plans by other wind companies to construct similar projects to the north due to rising costs, U.S. Wind, Inc. has not only plunged ahead, but has expanded the scope of the project. What began as plans to construct 6 megawatt turbines standing 550 feet tall and located 14 miles off the Ocean City coast has burgeoned to 18 megawatt turbines that will stand 940 feet in height and be located just 11.5 miles off the coast.

No project that is the magnitude of the US Offshore Wind project has ever been built in the U.S. without a state-level mandate. There are legitimate concerns that the electrical pricing PJM Interconnection intended to pay for the generated wind power will need to be subsidized by state ratepayers due to cost escalations that have occurred since the consumer impact estimates prepared in 2012. Of further concern is that the amendments adopted by the Economic Matters Committee on March 8, 2024 were not re-scored for fiscal implications. They appear to leave the door open for revision of the wind energy procurement, which would negatively affect state ratepayers. An adequate ratepayer impact analysis will now be needed by the Public Service Commission in an expedited timeframe to ensure that any revised project procurement requirements will protect Maryland ratepayers and taxpayers rather than providing an unsustainable subsidy to out-of-state companies. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President

cc: Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman
Delegate Charles Otto



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March 13, 2024

Senator Shelly Hettleman
State House Caucus Room
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
shelly.hettleman@senate.state.md.us

Senator C. Anthony Muse
State House Caucus Room
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
anthony.muse@senate.state.md.us

Dear Rules Committee Chair Senator Hettleman, Vice Chair Senator Muse, and members:

The Worcester County Commissioners strenuously oppose SB 1161 Electricity – Offshore Wind Projects – Alterations. This bill has immense implications to Maryland energy ratepayers and property owners, as companies like US Wind, Inc. rely heavily on taxpayer subsidies. If US Wind, Inc. lacks the financial wherewithal to cover startup costs, it is unfair to strap Marylanders with the responsibility to fund this project. It is important to note that, though the fragility of offshore wind has become increasingly evident by the cancellation of plans by other wind companies to construct similar projects to the north due to rising costs, U.S. Wind, Inc. has not only plunged ahead, but has expanded the scope of the project. What began as plans to construct 6 megawatt turbines standing 550 feet tall and located 14 miles off the Ocean City coast has burgeoned to 18 megawatt turbines that will stand 940 feet in height and be located just 11.5 miles off the coast.

No project that is the magnitude of the US Offshore Wind project has ever been built in the U.S. without a state-level mandate. There are legitimate concerns that the electrical pricing PJM Interconnection intended to pay for the generated wind power will need to be subsidized by state ratepayers due cost escalations that have occurred since the consumer impact estimates prepared in 2012. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony W. Bertino, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Resident

cc: Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman
Delegate Charles Otto