

TESTIMONY OF ORSTED TO THE MARYLAND HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE IN
OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1349

Orsted is the world's leading developer of offshore wind power, with 25 projects under management comprising nearly 1/3 of all installed offshore wind power capacity worldwide. We pioneered offshore wind power with the world's first project – a 5 MW project off the coast of Denmark – in 1991. We own and operate the first and only offshore wind farm in the U.S. – the Block Island Wind Farm off the coast of Rhode Island. In addition to Rhode Island, the states of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and Connecticut have each entrusted Orsted with the responsibility of delivering their first offshore wind farms.

In Maryland, Orsted is now investing in the Skipjack Wind Farm, a 120 megawatt offshore wind farm to be located 19.5 statute miles to the northeast of the Maryland-Delaware border. For this project, we have committed to investing \$200 million in Maryland during the construction and operation phases. Additionally, Skipjack will create 913 full time equivalent jobs during its development and construction period and 484 full time equivalent jobs during its operations period.

Orsted is opposed to House Bill 1349. The bill repeals the entire structure of Maryland's Off-Shore Wind Program. It removes from statute the basis for the program, including the initial authorization enacted in 2013 and the expansion enacted last year in the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019.

Orsted has already committed substantial resources to assist Maryland in its public goal of using offshore wind to meet its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals and its mandated Greenhouse Gas reduction goals. HB 1349 would move Maryland in a direction that is exactly opposite the direction being taken by almost every Atlantic Coast state.

Orsted relied upon the current Maryland's current law to program millions of dollars of investment bringing offshore wind generated electricity to reality. The severe "about face" taken by HB 1349 would send a message to every large private sector investment which relied on State policy that Maryland is an unreliable partner and an unstable environment for investment.

In conclusion, House Bill 1349 represents a radical change in State policy, a change that is unnecessary and disruptive. For those reasons **we request the Committee give House Bill 1349 an unfavorable report.**