



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 781 - Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement
(Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 7, 2023**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 781. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Maryland has the opportunity to make itself a nationwide leader for offshore wind, but it requires a comprehensive approach that fully commits the state to building the infrastructure necessary to support it. By setting a benchmark of 8,500 MegaWatts of offshore wind energy capacity we signal to developers and investors that Maryland is serious about achieving its climate goals.

The Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO has repeatedly testified this legislative session about the need for substantial new renewable energy generation projects that lower energy costs for rate-payers. We achieve the mandates of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021 and Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019 with ambitious bills like this. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that Maryland consumes five times more energy than it produces.¹ This approach will continue until we invest enough in new energy projects that can make Maryland a net exporter of renewable energy. We must stay competitive with other Atlantic states. Many have already set ambitious offshore wind energy goals, including: California of 25,000 MW, New Jersey of 11,000 MW, New York of 9,000 MW by 2035, North Carolina of 8,000 MW by 2040, Virginia of 5,200 MW, and Massachusetts of 5,600 MW.² Maryland's current plans only call for 2,000 MW.³

Through community benefit agreements for applicants Maryland can gain the full advantages of these projects, with jobs going to local residents, apprenticeship training opportunities, and timely

¹ U.S. EIA, State Energy Data System, Table P3, Total Primary Energy Production and Consumption Estimates in Trillion Btu, 2020.

² Teresa Christopher, Miriam Goldstein, and Mike Williams, "The Road to 30 Gigawatts: Key Actions To Scale an Offshore Wind Industry in the United States." Center for American Progress. March 14, 2022.

³ Targets set by Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2019 and Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019.

completion of projects. Skipjack 2 and Momentum Wind projects are estimated to have created over 10,000 job-years and contribute over \$1 billion to Maryland's economy according to the Public Service Commission report.⁴ New projects to meet the POWER Act's goals would create magnitudes more good paying, high quality climate jobs. Through the bill's emphasis on transmission improvements and manufacturing Maryland's ratepayers will be investing in Maryland's economy.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

⁴ Skipjack Offshore Energy, LLC and US Wind, Inc.'s Offshore Wind Applications under the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019. Order No. 90011 in Case No. 9666. Maryland Public Service Commission. December 17, 2021.