



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 753 - Offshore Wind Turbines and Accessory Installations - Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems

DATE: February 20, 2025

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

Senate Bill 753 would require offshore wind projects to install aircraft detection lighting systems (ADLS) on wind turbines and accessory installations associated with the project.

ADLS requirements are already addressed through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These three agencies have regulatory requirements for offshore wind turbines to have nighttime lighting capabilities to ensure safe air travel around lease areas.

Currently, the FAA has regulatory requirements for the lighting of offshore structures that exceed 499 feet and are within 12 nautical miles from shore.¹ Although FAA authority ends at the extent of the U.S. territorial sea, BOEM oversees the offshore federal renewable energy lease areas and recommends implementing the same ADLS requirements for consistency and aviation safety.² The USCG regulatory requirements also address offshore structure lighting beyond the U.S. territorial sea boundary to include the entire outer continental shelf.

MEA urges the committee to consider this information before issuing its report.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly (megan.outten@maryland.gov, 443-842-1780).

¹ Code of Federal Regulations
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-14/chapter-I/subchapter-E/part-77>

² BOEM's 2021 Report: Guidelines for Lighting and Marking of Structures Supporting Renewable Energy Development
<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/2021-Lighting-and-Marking-Guidelines.pdf#:~:text=All%20turbines%20above%20499%20ft,minimize%20visual%20impacts%20from%20lighting>