

League of Women Voters of Delaware
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TO: THOMAS NOYES, DNREC

FROM: JOANN HASSE, PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

PAT TODD, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

RE: COMMENTS FOR THE OFFSHORE WIND WORKING GROUP

The League of Women Voters of Delaware wishes to thank the Working Group and DNREC for offering the public this opportunity to comment on the challenges put forth by Governor Carney in Executive Order 13 to the Offshore Wind Working Group.

The League of Women Voters supports predominant reliance on renewable energy resources. The League also supports action by appropriate levels of government to encourage the use of renewable energy resources and energy conservation through funding for research and development, financial incentives, rate-setting policies and mandatory standards. The League believes it is important for Delaware to participate in developing offshore wind because this is the main renewable energy resource that is available to the State.

The State and the people of Delaware have relied too long on the grid bringing fossil fuel electricity and pollution from states to the west of us and nuclear electricity from New Jersey. Offshore wind power has the possibility of supplying not only this state, but extra power that could be sold to other states.

The groundwork for wind turbines was laid in 2008. All of the necessary siting off the coast of Delaware was completed. The public response in a survey was very positive to Bluewater Wind's plans; however, the financing for the project fell through. Delaware was supposed to be the first state to have offshore wind.

Since 2008 there has been growing interest in connecting wind farms along the Atlantic Coast via an underwater cable. Google has already offered monetary support for this and other large businesses may do so. The technology for building and placing turbines is proven and used in

Europe. Other East Coast states are either starting or near starting the process of constructing offshore wind energy. Rhode Island has a pilot project of 5 turbines up and running; Deepwater's goal for Rhode Island is at least another 200 turbines.

In Maryland two companies, Deepwater Wind and US Wind, have proposals before the Public Service Commission. Both these projects will be off the Delaware Coast in the area that Delaware had allotted to the Bluewater Wind project. Denmark has led the way in Europe in developing and constructing their renewable offshore wind energy resources. It is time for Delaware to step up to the plate and show how another small US state can make a difference.

The League would like to address the part of the Governor's Executive Order 13 that asks for specific recommendations in how to move forward in developing offshore wind:

Realistic goals need to be set by the Legislature concerning reducing GHG emissions and Renewable Portfolio standards. Every state should have goals to achieve fossil-free electricity generation. **The League supports:**

- **increasing the currently recommended 2030 goal for reducing Delaware's emissions of all greenhouse gases from 30% to a larger percentage, e.g., 40-45%, relative to 2008. A longer-term goal should be even higher, e.g. 80% by 2050, relative to 2008.**
- **measures ensuring that total electricity sales in Delaware be required to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standards.**
- **aggressive increases, by increments, of the percentage goals of renewable energy resources of electricity sold in Delaware beyond the goal of 25% renewable energy resources by 2025, with increased goals for 2035 and 2050.**

Encourage the use of some of the 14 vacant grandfathered Coastal Zone sites for wind energy-related components and development businesses.

Use the talents of the University of Delaware and Delaware State faculty and students for research and development of wind energy. Provide new courses at the technical colleges for training needed personnel and workers in the field of wind energy production.

The league looks forward to reading the Working Group's Report to the Governor and hope that the public might comment on the report at future public hearings.