



House Committee on Corporations

Support for H 5816, OFFSHORE WIND, Affordable Clean Energy Security Act, 4/1/25

Chair Joseph Solomon, Jr., and distinguished Members of the Corporations Committee:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island, as Chair of the League's Environment Team, and as a Mother Nature enthusiast, I am testifying **in support of House Bill No. 5816**.

The League and I hope this Committee will say "YES" to OFFSHORE WIND. It would be an affordable, clean energy solution. It would be an affirmative nod to Mother Nature and help heal our dying planet. A "YES" would be in the best interest of our Rhode Island communities.

Many years ago, I grew up in nearby Massachusetts on a small peninsula surrounded by fields of daffodils, shade trees in abundance, shorelines galore, and the refreshing salt water air. I swam in the rivers, sailed on the bay, and built imaginary fortresses on its rocky shores with driftwood and stones, and decorative seashells. I was in love with this natural playground. But I took that childhood paradise for granted.

I could not foresee the havoc that humankind would wreak on Mother Earth in these last 50+ years. Today we worry about a dying planet. We ask ourselves, have we passed the tipping point?

We struggle with how to maintain the needs and demands of our human population without inflicting further damage to our environment and all its other species. It's a delicate balance.

But we cannot ignore the challenge. Our planet is in crisis. As has been said, "There is no Planet B." We are gathered here today not only to support a way to fuel the energy that Rhode Island needs to survive in this modern world, but also to find a solution that would minimize the harm to the natural world we hold so dear.

Offshore Wind is exactly the kind of solution to address this moment's crisis. Rhode Island would be partnering with Nature, instead of disregarding her. Wind power is renewable and a perfect complement to solar energy, and more reliable. It's often there on cloudy days and long winter nights. Plus, Offshore Wind would lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, decrease air pollution, and lessen the cost to heat our homes. And employment and business opportunities would be available to workers from Rhode Island's disadvantaged communities.

Lastly, as noted in a Native American Proverb, "We do not inherit the world from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children." It is the responsibility of all of us here to save and protect this

planet as best we can for the generations to come. Passing this bill will help us to do just that!
So please say YES to OFFSHORE WIND. Say YES to House Bill No. 5816.

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island supports the passage of H 5816, as do I. Please
advance this bill and send it on to the House with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Diana (Donnie) McGee

Diana (Donnie) McGee, Advocacy Committee Cochair

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