

May 8, 2023

Testimony of Martina Halsey and Craig De Mott to the Coastal Resources Management Council
Little, Compton, RI

re: Federal Consistency Determination for CRMC File 2021-06-029 Revolution Wind, LLC Coastal
Zone Management Act consistency certification; offshore wind energy facility in federal waters

Dear Council Members,

As managers of a seaside restaurant, we want to add our voices to the chorus of Rhode Island citizens who oppose the Revolution Wind Project and urge you to perform your duty as stewards of our coastal resources by voting NO on the Federal consistency review.

Although the staff has not specifically included those of us in the hospitality sector in their assessment of the project's impacts on the marine economy, we serve seafood as an important part of our dining options and consider ourselves an integral part of the marine economy.

This massive wind complex will adversely impact the restaurant business for the lifetime of the project. Seafood shortages will drive up the price of our most popular dining items. Increased seafood prices will have a negative impact on our business.

We rely on air conditioning in the summer to keep our customers cool and lighting throughout the year. Higher electricity rates will increase our operating costs and decrease profits, potentially necessitating job layoffs and other cost-cutting measures.

In addition, we worry about the effect these massive turbines will have on our customer base. Up until now, 21 million people visit RI every year to enjoy the recreational and relaxing benefits of RI's coast. The unobstructed views of the ocean's horizon attract these tourists. We worry that the sight of the wind turbines just 12.9 to 16 miles off the coast of RI, in plain sight of almost every shoreline restaurant and every public beach, will detract from the popularity of RI as a tourist destination and will decrease the tourism industry.

Just by way of a reminder, tourism accounts for the 4th largest sector of RI's economy, employs 11% of the labor force, and provides 1.3 billion dollars of tax revenues to the state. In England, a study of all businesses in an area with visible turbines, reports that over 1/3 of the business owners have witnessed a negative impact on their businesses after the construction of the wind farms ([Mordue, 2020](#)).

We urge you to consider all aspects of the marine economy and vote NO to protect the tourism industry in RI.

Respectfully submitted,

Martina Halsey and Craig DeMott