



Jeffrey Willis, Executive Director

August 15th, 2023

RI Coastal Resource Management Council
4808 Tower Hill Road
Office #116
Wakefield, RI 02879

RE: Sunrise Wind Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Consistency Review

Dear Director Willis & members of the Coastal Resources Management Council,

On behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and the RI Chapter of the New England for Offshore Wind Coalition, I write in support of Sunrise Wind and urge your approval of the project. Green Energy Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit based in both Providence, RI and Boston, MA working to speed the transition to a low carbon future. We also lead the RI chapter of New England for Offshore Wind, which is a regional coalition of environmental, academic, labor, business, and social justice organizations united by our vision to combat climate change and increase the supply of clean energy to New England through responsibly developed offshore wind.

We believe that offshore wind is the biggest lever that we can pull to meet our energy needs, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and address the climate crisis, all while creating good union jobs and benefiting the economy. It will allow us to transition away from fossil fuel energy, which not only emits greenhouse gases and particulate matter, but threatens our grid reliability and increases energy costs. Our region's reliance on fossil fuels leaves us vulnerable to market volatility and price spikes that are inherent with oil and natural gas.

Sunrise Wind is an approximately 924 MW project with the capacity to power nearly 600,000 homes each year. The Construction & Operations Plan (COP) estimates that Sunrise Wind will result in over 60 million tons of avoided CO2 emissions over the life of the project by displacing fossil fuel generation. While the project is contracted with New York, the benefits transcend state boundaries. Given that the climate crisis is a global issue, regional collaboration on offshore wind is needed. As a Rhode Islander, I am proud to host the Sunrise Wind farm because it will contribute to the generation of clean energy and help our region transition away from fossil fuels. With Rhode Island being especially vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise, it is imperative that we do everything we can to mitigate the climate crisis.

Concerning fisheries and marine life, we understand that there are temporary impacts, and we strongly advocate for mitigation measures and fisheries compensation packages. However, we would like to underscore that we advocate for offshore wind because we must. Saying no to offshore wind is saying yes to natural gas plants polluting the air we breathe, yes to building



more gas pipelines, and yes to the catastrophic impacts of climate change which include warming oceans and acidification that have a profound impact on marine life. So yes, impacts must be mitigated, fisheries must be compensated, but we can develop offshore wind in a responsible way that respects our environment and our wildlife. We don't need to choose between offshore wind and wildlife protection. We can do both, and in doing both we're protecting wildlife from the greatest threat of all: climate change.

We cannot forget that we are in a climate crisis. The latest weather patterns & increased storms across the country and the globe have made that very clear. We urge the council to vote in favor of the project as offshore wind is crucial to addressing the climate crisis and meeting our energy needs. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Amanda Barker

Amanda Barker
RI Policy Advocate, Green Energy Consumers Alliance
RI State Lead, New England for Offshore Wind Coalition
amanda@greenenergyconsumers.org