



**Testimony on the supplement to the draft environmental impact statement for Vineyard Wind**  
BOEM-2020-0005-0001

July 17, 2020

Thank you to BOEM for the opportunity to offer our testimony on behalf of Environment Massachusetts and Environment America. Environment Massachusetts works to protect clean air, clean water, and open space in the Bay State, together with our tens of thousands of citizen members and supporters. Environment Massachusetts is part of Environment America, a network of organizations that advocate for offshore wind energy and other policies to protect our environment across the country.

We support the use of our offshore wind resources to provide limitless, pollution-free energy for Massachusetts and other East Coast states.

In Massachusetts, offshore wind is the largest renewable energy resource we have. In 2018, Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center released a report, *Wind Power to Spare: The Enormous Energy Potential of Atlantic Offshore Wind*, documenting the potential for offshore wind energy along the Atlantic coast. Our report found that Massachusetts has the highest offshore wind potential of any state in the nation. Massachusetts' technical potential for offshore wind is equivalent to more than 19 times the state's annual electricity consumption. Even if our heating and transportation are converted to electric power – a trend that is already underway, and a necessary step toward decarbonizing our economy and preventing the worst impacts of global warming – offshore wind will still be sufficient to power Massachusetts eight times over.

Massachusetts' offshore wind resources, along with our potential for other forms of renewable energy like solar, give us confidence that a future powered by 100 percent clean, renewable energy is feasible. When we achieve 100 percent renewable energy, our air will be cleaner, our communities will be healthier, and we'll be doing our part to avoid devastating climate change.

In Massachusetts, public support for clean energy is strong, and state and local officials are responding to this support with ambitious commitments. In 2016, state officials passed a law committing to 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind energy within 10 years. Two years later, legislators opened the door to doubling that commitment to 3,200 megawatts, and Governor Baker promised he would do so.

As the SEIS says, Vineyard Wind and other proposed offshore wind projects will help Massachusetts and other East Coast states to reduce their reliance on polluting fossil fuels.

Once completed, the Vineyard Wind project will produce approximately 6 percent of the electricity consumed in Massachusetts while avoiding 1.6 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, the equivalent of taking 325,000 cars off the road. The project will also result in a significant reduction in other pollutants, like nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide, that harm public health.

There has been an extensive process to gather input on the Vineyard Wind project from key stakeholders, beginning with the selection of lease area sites and continuing through multiple stages of the project's design. Vineyard Wind has responded to this input by making significant adjustments in the project plans.

Vineyard Wind has shown a commitment to building a cooperative relationship with the project's host communities. Vineyard Wind is partnering with Vineyard Power, an energy cooperative, to ensure that residents of Martha's Vineyard experience the economic benefits of offshore wind. The company has also committed to significant investments in renewable energy and resiliency in communities throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

The SEIS reinforces our view that Vineyard Wind can be built in a way that protects wildlife and our natural resources. Vineyard Wind represents the launching point for the American offshore wind industry. Please advance this project as quickly as possible, so that all of us can breathe cleaner air and live in a safer climate.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.



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