



March 29, 2022

The Honorable Joseph L. Fiordaliso
President
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44. S. Clinton Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Via email: OSW.Stakeholder@bpu.nj.gov

Attn: Board Secretary, Aida Camacho-Welch

*RE: Letter of Support – New Jersey Seawind Connector (NJSC)
Docket No. QO20100630, Offshore Wind Transmission*

Dear President Fiordaliso:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the New Jersey Seawind Connector project (NJSC), as proposed by NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic Holdings, LLC. as part of the Board of Public Utilities' process under the State Agreement Approach (SAA) on behalf of the Chemistry Council of New Jersey (CCNJ).

CCNJ has consistently supported a balanced energy policy that includes efficiency, conservation, diversity (including renewables) and expanded domestic energy supply. We believe that access to a reliable, affordable supply of energy is vital to chemical makers, the future of the American manufacturing base and the health of the U.S. economy and the lower cost, reliable option put forth by NextEra Energy meets these goals.

Energy is a vital component of the industry's cost structure. Higher energy prices can have a substantial impact on the business of chemistry. Overall energy costs represent around 10% of the value of industry shipments. Moreover, value added by the business of chemistry is equivalent to five times this energy cost, which is just one of many inputs, including other raw materials and services that the business of chemistry purchases from other industries.

New Jersey's industrial energy rates, despite being 4% lower compared to rates in 2018, remain almost 50% above the national average. This high cost compared to the rest of the country puts New Jersey at a competitive disadvantage in attracting new companies and new capital investments for expansions. Therefore, it is imperative that the offshore wind transmission solutions that are selected by the Board of Public Utilities are cost efficient to ensure affordability for ratepayers. It is our opinion that as the Board evaluates the various Offshore Wind proposals you will find that the NextEra Energy Transmission meets the desire for lower costs and efficient transmission.

The NJSC is designed to meet the state's goal of 7,500 MWs of offshore wind by 2035 in an affordable, efficient way. It offers cost containment on every aspect of the project to protect ratepayers. The design creates greater efficiencies, relying on less cable, and requiring fewer beach crossings than other proposals which provide tremendous savings to ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dennis Hart
Executive Director