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Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 9:22 AM

To: Secretary, BPUBoard [BPU] <Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov>

Cc: Ben Gallinelli <ben@snjdc.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] SNJDC Letter of Support - Leading Light Wind BPU 3rd Solicitation

The Southern New Jersey Development Council (SNJDC), a non-profit economic development organization comprised of over 300 mid to large size businesses located throughout the southern eight counties of New Jersey, appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (The Board) on behalf of Leading Light Wind's (LLW) Third Offshore Wind Solicitation application.

As a business and economic development organization, our mission is to provide access to reliable information that assists key leaders and decision-makers from the public and private sectors in making decisions that spur sustainable economic development and grow and maintain businesses that will lead to better jobs, higher wages, and tax revenues in southern New Jersey.

Over the past several years, the SNJDC hosted workshops and seminars on the need to invest in our regional infrastructure. The seminars featured policy makers and project developers with the goal of educating our membership on the benefits of investments in infrastructure, and opportunities to increase energy access to the region. In providing that content, and through collaboration with our membership, we are pleased to offer these comments for consideration.

SNJDC supports and endorses LLW's Offshore Wind application to the State's third OSW solicitation seeking between 1.2 GW and 4 GW of new offshore wind capacity. This represents a significant milestone toward achieving Governor Phil Murphy's goal of 11 GW of offshore wind energy in New Jersey by 2040. LLW's application invests in critical components of New Jersey's new clean energy industry and efforts to create good-paying jobs and ensure accessible-to-all economic opportunities, while providing sustainable and secure energy.

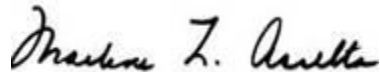
As the only American-led project in the region, LLW has an unmatched commitment to advancing a New Jersey centric offshore wind industry that secures American competitiveness in the global market.

LLW's proposal will deliver billions in economic benefits and workforce opportunities that highlight their commitment to the region, support thousands of full-time jobs, strengthen our workforce training, and uplift frontline communities. LLW is looking to create a community benefits (CB) program with up to \$300M in funding. The CB Program will be driven by a local stakeholders/community group and work on initiatives in some of South Jersey's most distressed and underserved communities. LLW has taken the time to truly understand the needs of the region as a whole and has expressed a commitment to leave 'no one behind' as the OSW industry enters its next phase of growth and development.

LLW's proposed investments are consistent with SNJDC's mission to promote responsible economic development in South Jersey by recognizing that clean energy is the cornerstone to economic success across the region. These massive projects are multimodal in nature and will foster job creation and further strengthen South Jersey's clean energy economy for years to come.

SNJDC appreciates the opportunity to offer our support of LLW's commitment to South Jersey. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with LLW to support the creation of a strong, resilient, green-energy economy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marlene Z. Asselta
President

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