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Letter from mayor of point pleasant

1 message

Maggie Callahan Bagley
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Thu, Mar 14,
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AM

To: Maggie Bagley <mecbagley@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Thank you mayor Douglas Vitale, Mayor Borough of Point Pleasant Beach. Please encourage your mayor's to take a position against wind and write letters. We need all support we can get.

From new mayor point Pleasant beach
Re: Docket No. BOEM-2024-0001
Notice of Availability of a Draft Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement for Expected Wind
Energy Development in the New York Bight

Dear Ms. Lewandowski,

As mayor of the Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, please accept this letter expressing strong opposition to the proposed impacts and alternatives outlined in the

New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Docket No. BOEM-2024-0001.

The process for public review of this document is inherently flawed. This highly technical document – containing nearly 800 pages in Volume I alone – is far too complex and nuanced for the general public to review and synthesize within the 45 days permitted for public comment. While we are grateful for the opportunity for extended comment, documents of this magnitude and impact truly require more than just 90 days.

The content of the PEIS is also grossly insufficient to account for the various impacts on nearly half a million acres of ocean land leased throughout the six lease areas: Bluepoint Wind, Attentive Energy, Community Offshore Wind, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Bight, Invenergy Wind Offshore, and Vineyard Mid-Atlantic. Tellingly, the record \$4.3 billion secured through these leases indicates that the profitability of these leases far outweighs any real assessment of the impacts and consequences of industrializing one of our last untapped and pristine natural resources.

The PEIS, by BOEM's own estimation, anticipates 1,103 wind turbines, 22 offshore substations, 44 offshore export cables of 1,772 miles in length, and 1,583 miles of inter array cables between the six projects throughout the Bight. The document sites estimated impacts from negligible to major in a variety of areas, but without citing sufficient baseline data due to the absence of such data. To issue a PEIS on the six lease areas without the

existence of baseline data and “because the size and design of the NY Bight wind farms are unknown at this stage” is shortsighted, grossly inappropriate, and negligent.

Unfortunately, further issuance of project-specific Environmental Impact Statements have been hamstrung by the federal 2020 NEPA rule change which will limit future EISs to 150 to 300 pages for “proposals of unusual scope or complexity”. This means that we will never fully understand the impacts and will be – to borrow a term from NMFS – “building the ship while sailing it.”

Due to the massive impacts and geographical area of the six lease areas, not only on the environment but on navigation/security, commercial and recreational fishing, tourism, sea floor natural resources, onshore transmission, EMF emission, etc., this New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement should be retracted and revised with more accurate and meaningful data on a per-lease basis. At the very minimum, the public comment period should be further extended to give the public a better chance to read and digest the information contained therein, and to provide meaningful feedback.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Douglas Vitale, Mayor Borough of Point Pleasant Beach