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March 26, 2024

Secretary of the Board NJ Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 1st Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

RE: DOCKET NO. QO24020109 / COMMENTS ON THE FOURTH OFFSHORE WIND SOLICITATION

Board Secretary:

We write today to express Regional Plan Association's (RPA) strong support of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' (NJBPU) fourth offshore wind solicitation. We applaud this continued commitment to advancing offshore wind power and to ensuring New Jersey's position as a national leader in the clean energy industry.

Responsibly developed offshore wind power is New Jersey's gateway to reliable, affordable clean electricity and thousands of local jobs in a burgeoning industry. The advancement of the fourth solicitation sends a clear signal that the State of New Jersey continues to see offshore wind as an essential piece of our renewable energy future that will help communities breathe cleaner air, have fair access to meaningful, good paying jobs, and avoid the very worst impacts of climate change.

RPA has been a vocal supporter of Governor Murphy's goal of reaching 11,000 gigawatts of wind power by 2040, and we are excited to see NJBPU take yet another tangible step toward helping this vision become reality.

Offshore wind development provides a viable path away from reliance on polluting fossil fuels that accelerate climate impacts and threaten the public health of our communities, and we look forward to working with State and industry partners to ensure this progress continues.