

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** New Jersey Board of Public Utilities  
**FROM:** Hilary Chebra, Manager, Government Affairs, CCSNJ  
**RE:** Pre-Build Infrastructure (PBI) Solicitation  
**DATE:** October 1, 2024

The Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ) is the region's largest and most influential business organization representing businesses in the seven most southern counties of New Jersey, as well as greater Philadelphia and northern Delaware. The CCSNJ has over 1,200 member companies, approximately 85 percent of which are small businesses that employ less than 50 people. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Pre-Build Infrastructure (PBI) solicitation.

The PBI project is critical to delivering offshore wind energy to New Jersey. This necessary infrastructure will support our state's ambitious clean energy goals while bringing immense economic benefits to South Jersey. Specifically, it will construct the infrastructure required to connect offshore wind farms to the electric grid, ensuring a reliable flow of renewable energy. The method of installing underground onshore cables is a proven, safe, and effective way to integrate renewable energy.

This project is particularly beneficial because it will allow for flexibility and modularity in how offshore wind energy is delivered to New Jersey consumers. Notably, the project's design calls for one landing point at the Sea Girt National Guard Training Center, rather than multiple interconnections across the shore, which will significantly reduce the impact on our coastal communities.

Furthermore, the economic potential of the offshore wind industry is significant. The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has already invested in the state-of-the-art Wind Port in Salem County, making New Jersey a hub for offshore wind manufacturing and supply chain activities. By advancing the necessary onshore cable infrastructure, we ensure that these broader economic opportunities are realized, fostering local businesses, boosting our economy, and providing long-term, sustainable employment. This is desperately needed to help diversify the economy of the region, that has historically been dependent on the hospitality and gaming industries, which were severely impacted by the pandemic.

The CCSNJ recognizes the tremendous economic potential that offshore wind development brings to our region. We encourage the Board to continue moving forward with this forward-thinking initiative and look forward to working together to make South Jersey a leader in the offshore wind industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice the CCSNJ's support for the PBI project.