

New Jersey

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**Statement of the
New Jersey Alliance for Action
Stakeholder Meeting
of the
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

**Wall Township, New Jersey
October 1, 2024**

Thank you to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for holding this public hearing. My name is Christian Hartman and I am Senior Vice President of the New Jersey Alliance for Action.

The New Jersey Alliance for Action is a non-partisan and non-profit association representing thousands of business, labor, government, utility, education, professional and other New Jersey leaders. Our mission is to improve New Jersey's economy through the promotion of environmentally friendly capital construction and infrastructure investment. Our members are constantly working to "*Build A Better Future*" !

Offshore wind, and the infrastructure necessary to support its delivery to our electric grid and into New Jersey homes and workplaces, is a prime example of environmentally friendly infrastructure investment.

Whether it has been at a federal, state, county or local level, the Alliance for Action has consistently been a champion for offshore wind power. It is an absolutely necessary piece for this state's future energy needs, which will only rise as we add more people beyond the nine million three hundred thousand that already live in our state (according to US Census 2023 figures).

When speaking on offshore wind, the Alliance for Action also needs to speak for the necessary infrastructure to bring that power into the grid, for use in New Jersey, and to be available in the PJM interconnection. (I will note that just this past week a senior PJM executive expressed concern for the lack of new capacity being integrated into that grid.)

Offshore wind will provide a major portion of our new electric capacity in this state, in a way that puts us on a path to realizing the state's clean energy goals, which are ambitious but very achievable.

This PBI solicitation process is vital as well, as it is a “missing link” that will connect the offshore wind into the Larrabee Connector Station. The methods to install this infrastructure are the same that have been used effectively elsewhere. It provides the opportunity to integrate multiple offshore wind proposals into a single point of interconnection.

Offshore wind - and its related infrastructure such as the PBI - will provide many well-paying construction jobs, and additional jobs through economic impact and the maintenance of these new facilities. Job number estimates in New Jersey alone are up to 20,000. The industry has already generated \$2.5 billion for long-term investments in new ports, factories, transmission systems, and more in New Jersey.

Simply put, offshore wind - combined with other power sources - is vital to our clean energy future.

It is why the Alliance for Action has also endorsed the state goal of 11,000 MW of offshore wind capacity in operation by 2040. The Atlantic Shores project and the others that follow will benefit from the new infrastructure on land.

New Jersey has clear and beneficial plans for moving forward. We must not delay action any longer. We thank the Board of Public Utilities for holding this stakeholder session and the Alliance for Action is pleased to participate.

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