



Comments in Response to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Vineyard Wind's Offshore Wind Energy Project

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To: Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

From: Emily Alexander, Climate Policy Advocate, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

The untapped offshore wind resource along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard is one of the most powerful in the world and is within reach of densely populated areas where energy demands are high and new resource options are few. The offshore wind industry could create 83,000 jobs by 2030 and deliver \$25 billion in annual economic input by that same year.

The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Massachusetts' Vineyard Wind 1 project sets a precedent for all future offshore wind projects across the nation. The SEIS reinforces our belief that offshore wind energy can be developed in a manner that protects wildlife and habitat every step of the way, and that projects such as Vineyard Wind's should advance as quickly as responsible development will allow.

As climate change is the seminal challenge of our generation, any clean energy development is essential to mitigating its impacts. The SEIS states that, "the proposed project and other future offshore wind projects will in face probably lead to reduced emissions from fossil fuel power-generating facilities and benefit air quality." It states that in the absence of offshore wind development, "additional, more polluting, fossil fuel energy facilities would come or be kept on-line to meet future power demand, fired by natural gas, oil, or coal." Offshore wind energy is a vital resource that must be tapped in order to meet New England's climate change mitigation goals.

Continued fossil fuel production poses detrimental impacts to our public health by increasing the chance of heart attack, respiratory disorders, stroke, asthma, and more. **Offshore wind energy holds over 50% of the potential clean energy resources in the region and will help New England avoid almost 1.7 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to removing 325,000 cars off the road -- in turn protecting our public health.**

Responsibly developed offshore wind must take wildlife protection into account. CTLCV is pleased to see that the SEIS puts a focus on marine wildlife protection, however, going forward, federal and state governments need to adopt measures that specifically avoid, minimize, and

mitigate underwater noise, ship strikes, and turbine collisions to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale.

It is a critical time for offshore wind in our country. As we focus on ways to get our economy back on track, offshore wind is a huge opportunity we cannot pass by. **Vineyard Wind 1 alone will create 3,600 jobs for local residents and will save ratepayers more than \$1.4 billion in energy-related costs over the 20-year contract with Massachusetts.** That does not include the other offshore wind projects currently in contract in New England. A recent study by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) found that the offshore wind industry will create more than **80,000 jobs in the next ten years, with economic output reaching upwards of \$25 billion per year by 2030.**

Furthermore, Vineyard Wind 1 has made commitments to job training programs on Martha's Vineyard and Massachusetts workforce development programs. Vineyard Wind 1's turbine layout has been constructed with input from the fishing industry as well as the U.S. Coastguard. This project is precedent-setting for responsible development. As technology advances, the ability to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to wildlife and the environment will only grow stronger. The climate crisis and ensuing health crisis demand that we stand up these projects as fast as their responsible development will allow, and we believe it's time to move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in response to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. CTLCV looks forward to seeing how this project progresses for our clean energy future.