

From: Phil Warburg [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 3:12 PM
To: MARFP83C@gmail.com
Subject: Comment on RFP for Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Projects

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Dear Commissioner Woodcock,

Offshore wind development represents an unparalleled economic and environmental opportunity for Massachusetts. It will very likely be the Commonwealth's most significant contribution to sustainable infrastructure for decades to come. Ensuring that this new sector becomes a promising economic frontier for historically marginalized communities will be a true test of the Commonwealth's commitment to building an inclusive twenty-first century economy.

The Massachusetts Port Authority's RFP for a new convention center hotel has set the pace for opening up economic development benefits to populations that, until now, have gained little from the massive investment that has taken place in the Seaport district. By giving "comprehensive diversity and inclusion" a weighting of 25 percent in evaluating bids for the convention center hotel, Massport signaled its seriousness in making jobs, business, and investment opportunities for historically marginalized communities an integral part of this important project.

In the 1.6 Gigawatt 83C III solicitation for offshore wind procurement, the DOER's inclusion of new language in support of economic participation by historically marginalized communities is a step in the right direction. To ensure that qualifying bids deliver on this ambition, DOER should require bidders to submit a plan for training and workforce development that will expand employment of minority and disadvantaged workers. Bidders should also be required to include a plan for soliciting business from minority and disadvantaged contractors as well as investment by minority and disadvantaged investors. Plans for consultation and cooperation with State agencies focused on minority and disadvantaged business development should be further elements in a successful bid.

Beyond specific plans for training and hiring workers and engaging historically marginalized businesses and investors, bidders should address how their project will mitigate environmental harm and create economic opportunities in environmental justice communities. Finally, once a bid has been awarded, the DOER should implement a process for regular reportage by the developer – with quantified data where appropriate – on progress in meeting these commitments.

This is a unique moment in the Commonwealth's transition to a more environmentally sustainable energy future. It is exactly the right time to make sure that the values of fairness and inclusion characterize this transition.

Sincerely yours,

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