

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait
President

October 7, 2022

R.I. Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
PUC.PublicComments@puc.ri.gov

Re: Comments on OSW Docket 22-22-EL

Dear Commissioners:

As Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 99, I have the distinct privilege to represent 800 Women and Men in the Rhode Island Electrical Industry. Our members have been intimately involved in off-shore wind since the first discussions of the Block Island project straight through to this very minute.

I cannot speak to all the technical details in the procurements process but I can absolutely speak to the importance of this portion of the Affordable Clean Energy Security Act to all of us.

The debate is over if Climate Change exists. The debate of what causes Climate Change will most likely never end and is nothing more than a tripping hazard placed in the race to create a better world for those who follow us.

I applaud Governor McKee and our General Assembly for being wise enough to recognize the need to stem the tide of Climate Change as quickly as possible. Leadership on this type of development is not as readily available in other parts of our great Nation.

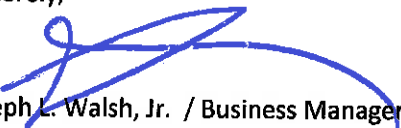
Who would ever have thought we would be able to power every home in Rhode Island and offset millions of tons of Carbon Emissions utilizing the wind that is just waiting to be harnessed? The Rhode Island Building Trades and our State leadership, that's who.

The entire renewable quest in this state is not only improving lives of all the inhabitants of Mother Earth through clean power generation, it also has impacted the financial health of many of those who do the hard work in Rhode Island. Most developers understand how important it is to partner with the IBEW and other Unions to get their projects safely completed on time and on budget. Our men and women who do the work understand the benefits of that partnership is their membership in the middle class.

Our request would be to ensure that all bidders who employ local unionized labor with apprenticeship utilization requirements under a project labor agreement are prioritized. Under President Biden, we are making great strides to reinvigorate manufacturing in our country and this should also be part of the equation. Clearly components that are not domestically available today cannot be realistically required immediately, however incentives to utilize domestic components will certainly spur industries that can build the components to a higher standard and eliminate the unpredictable supply chain issues from foreign lands.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope every renewable project in every land and every sea is performed with the needs of the community, the craft worker, and the earth in mind so equitable balances can be achieved as we work to eliminate the threat of climate change, one breeze at a time.

Sincerely,


Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

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