



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

August 14, 2025

Chairman Gerwatowski, Director Gray, and Director Brady
Energy Facility Siting Board
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

RE: Docket No. SB-2022-02 – SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC Application to Construct Major Energy Facilities

Dear Chairman Gerwatowski, Director Gray, and Director Brady,

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA), our partners, and the members and supporters they represent, we are writing to express our strong support of SouthCoast Wind's application filed with the Energy Facility Siting Board (EFSB) to construct major energy facilities in Rhode Island. The approval of this application is a critical and important step in Rhode Island's clean energy transition, ensuring that responsible offshore wind development continues to advance.

BGA is a national coalition of fifteen labor unions and environmental organizations, many of which have locals and chapters in Rhode Island. The mission of BGA is to unify labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force to fight climate change, protect the health of people and the environment, stand against economic and racial inequality, and create and maintain good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country. Offshore wind is a vital clean energy solution that presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance this mission if projects are developed in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner—with high-road labor standards and attention to environmental justice. Offshore wind projects have the potential to create family-sustaining, union jobs; deliver benefits to communities hardest hit by climate change and economic inequality; and protect wildlife and critical habitats at every stage of development.

We recognize that the future of working people and the health of the environment are inextricably linked, rejecting the false choice that good-paying jobs and economic opportunity are at odds with protecting our environment. Offshore wind energy is living proof of this statement. The SouthCoast Wind project, as a whole, is estimated to avoid over 4 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions annually while creating thousands of direct jobs, along with a commitment to employing local union labor, paying prevailing wages, and

employing apprentices throughout the project's lifespan.¹ This commitment is evidenced by its Memorandum of Understanding with North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters to execute Project Labor Agreements (PLA) with local unions for major aspects of the project build out. The project has also entered into a host community agreement with the Town of Portsmouth and intends to invest millions into initiatives that support local workforce development, fisheries, and marine science research. The potential benefits of the project to the local economy are clear and align with the state's environmental goals.

Through the *Act on Climate*, Rhode Island has demonstrated leadership and made strong commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% (below 1990 levels) by 2030, achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and build a 100% clean energy future.² Offshore wind is an essential part of meeting these goals. According to Rhode Island's Office of Energy Resources *Road to 100% Electricity* report, the state will need as much as 1,100 MW of offshore wind energy to meet its 100% clean energy goals.³ However, the State has only procured 430 MW of offshore wind to date. The conditionally selected SouthCoast Wind project's 200 MW would help keep Rhode Island on the path of meeting its statutory commitments.

We encourage the EFSB to issue the permits which would allow the proposed energy facilities to move forward. Allowing this project to advance will help create good union jobs, boost the local economy, and help Rhode Island meet its offshore wind goals while safeguarding our natural environment.

When done right with protections for the environment and workers, offshore wind power will create high-quality, union jobs in manufacturing, construction, and operations while also avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating environmental impacts. We appreciate your effort to solicit public input to inform the siting of these facilities. Thank you.

¹ SouthCoast Wind, Powering New England's Energy Future. <https://southcoastwind.com>

² State of Rhode Island, 2021 Act on Climate. <https://climatechange.ri.gov/act-climate>

³ The Brattle Group and Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, The Road to 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 in Rhode Island. December 2020. <https://energy.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur741/files/documents/renewable/The-Road-to-100-Percent-Renewable-Electricity---Brattle-04Feb2021.pdf>