



**Rhode Island Manufacturers Association**  
*The Economic Engine for Rhode Island*

RECEIVED  
2019 MAR 21 PM 3:31  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

March 19, 2019

RI Public Utilities Commission  
Luly Massaro, Clerk  
89 Jefferson Blvd.  
Warwick, R.I. 02888

Re: Docket No. 4929

Dear Ms. Massaro:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association and the Energy Council of Rhode Island, we are writing to express our support for Ørsted's proposed Revolution Wind project.

There's no way around it: Rhode Island is facing an energy crisis, and it's hurting our business community. Rhode Island's energy rates are higher than any state in New England. In fact, they're the third-highest rates in the country and nearly double the national average. This is a major problem for Rhode Island's manufacturers and other businesses that need to use large amounts of energy. These manufacturers are doing everything they possibly can to cut down on energy costs, from switching to long-lasting LED light bulbs to investing in more efficient heating and cooling systems.

But until the rates start to move toward the national average, it will never be enough. Manufacturers will move their businesses and their jobs out of the state.

We need to support and approve projects that will address Rhode Island's energy crisis. Revolution Wind would do just that. It would generate enough clean energy to power roughly 270,000 Rhode Island homes – about a quarter of the state's total electric load.

Most importantly, that power would come with a savings – millions of dollars in saving for ratepayers. As two groups who opposed the Block Island Wind Farm because of its above-market costs, we are incredibly pleased to see that the cost of offshore wind is coming way down just as Deepwater Wind predicted and promised.

Many of Rhode Island's manufacturers are reaching a point in which they simply cannot afford to do business. We understand that this problem will not be solved by one project, but the Revolution Wind project will be a huge step toward using wind energy to address the state's energy needs in an affordable and renewable way.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association