

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 6, 2017

Mr. David J. Collins, Executive Secretary  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
William Donald Schaefer Tower  
6 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: Case Number 9431, In the Matter of the Applications of US Wind, Inc., and Skipjack Offshore Energy, LLC for a Proposed Offshore Wind Project(s) Pursuant to the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013

Dear Mr. Collins,

We are writing regarding the Deepwater Wind's Skipjack Offshore Energy LLC offshore wind project application before the Maryland Public Service Commission.

We believe that harnessing our nation's offshore wind can be a win-win-win. If done right, it means reliable, homegrown power, cleaner air, and real American jobs. With the difficulties that have faced the Delaware offshore wind project, we are painfully aware that offshore wind faces many challenges. To help offshore wind overcome these challenges, the Delaware congressional delegation has over the years led efforts to improve the federal permitting process for offshore wind, to support federal funding for offshore wind research and development, and to extend the federal investment tax credit to help catalyze the first offshore wind projects in this country. On all of these fronts, we have worked closely with our friends in the Maryland congressional delegation, and we are excited to see these efforts are starting to pay off with further investments occurring in offshore wind in this country.

It has come to our attention through public hearings of the Maryland Public Service Commission that Deepwater Wind intends to develop Delaware's offshore wind area and deliver power into Maryland through its Skipjack project. In testimony, Deepwater Wind's CEO claims that because the project is in federal waters, the company is not obligated to keep the Delaware congressional or state delegation apprised of the company's intentions. In addition, the CEO stated, "We don't have specific plans to engage with businesses in Delaware."

Although the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is a federal resource, we believe states should play a critical role in deciding what types of energy development occur on and off their shores, and how that energy is developed. That goes for renewable energy as well as offshore drilling. This is why we find Deepwater Wind's comments before the Commission troubling.

To our knowledge, before Senator Carper's call last week to its CEO, Deepwater Wind apparently had only one conversation with one staff person in Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) prior to the Maryland Public Service Commission public hearings and, as the CEO admitted, did not have any conversations with

Delaware's local, state or federal government, or with local businesses that may be impacted. Officials or businesses have not even seen the impacts that this project may have on Delaware's local viewsheds. That is in deep contrast with the other offshore wind project application before the Maryland Public Service Commission, U.S. Wind, who has been in ongoing conversations with Delaware's local, state, and federal officials, as well as the state's major utilities, for eighteen months.

In our obligation to do due diligence when weighing the economic and environmental concerns of any major energy project off Delaware's shores, we need more information on the Skipjack project before we can support it. As of today, without any detailed information on the project, we have concerns with the project moving forward. It is our hope that the Maryland Public Service Commission will require Deepwater Wind to provide more information about the project to Delaware stakeholders before providing any incentives to start construction.

We strongly support offshore wind energy, but as constructions starts off our shores, we believe we all need to be good neighbors when it comes to surrounding states impacts. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Haynes Gillam in U.S. Senator Carper's office, 202-224-8832. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

With best personal regards, we are,

Sincerely yours,



Tom Carper  
U.S. Senator



Christopher Coons  
U.S. Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
U.S. Representative