



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

February 20, 2020

CHESAPEAKE

The Honorable Members of the Virginia Senate  
of the Hampton Roads Region  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

FRANKLIN

GLOUCESTER

The Honorable Members of the Virginia House of Delegates  
of the Hampton Roads Region

HAMPTON

Pocahontas Building  
900 E. Main Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

RE: Virginia's Offshore Wind Opportunity

NEWPORT NEWS

Dear Members of the Hampton Roads Legislative Caucus:

NORFOLK

On behalf of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), we want to thank you for your leadership to establish the Commonwealth of Virginia as a renewable energy leader, and for your work to establish Virginia and Hampton Roads as a hub for the offshore wind industry. Your legislative initiatives are setting the course for private industry and the state government to work together to grow our economy through the renewable energy sector.

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SMITHFIELD

The HRPDC represents 17 local governments and over 1.7 million residents in southeastern Virginia. The Commission is responsible for encouraging regional cooperation and planning for the future economic prosperity, resiliency, and health of the Hampton Roads region. Your work to establish Virginia and Hampton Roads as a hub for the offshore wind industry is a significant contribution to this effort. To achieve this goal, the HRPDC supports proposals to invest in Portsmouth Marine Terminal to ready it for offshore wind development, and create a Virginia Office of Offshore Wind to coordinate efforts to build the U.S. offshore wind supply chain in Hampton Roads.

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

VIRGINIA BEACH

The potential for job creation from the offshore wind industry can be transformative for our region. Global investment in the industry is expected to total \$1 trillion over the next 20 years. The U.S. East Coast is forecast to be the third largest offshore wind market in the world, with projected investment of \$100 billion by 2040. Within the next several years, two of the nation's largest offshore wind projects will be built off Virginia's coast.

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

Fortunately, Virginia has the right combination of assets to harness this emerging industry to fuel economic growth by attracting companies up and down a new supply chain to build the nation's offshore wind infrastructure. Our state has unmatched port facilities and the nation's largest and most skilled maritime workforce. No other place on the East Coast offers the same platform for growth for the offshore wind industry. Nevertheless, competition from other states is growing, and it is essential that we act quickly on this opportunity.

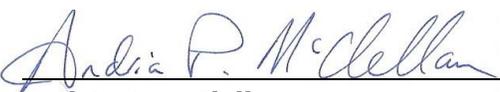
Thank you again for your work on behalf of the Hampton Roads region. Please don't hesitate to call on HRPDC staff or leadership to support your efforts.

Sincerely,



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Michael J. Hipple  
Chair



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Andria P. McClellan  
Vice Chair

MS/ka

copy: HRPDC Commissioners



MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

February 20, 2020

CHESAPEAKE

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

FRANKLIN

GLOUCESTER

RE: Renewable Energy Transition and Virginia's Offshore Wind Opportunity

HAMPTON

ISLE OF WIGHT

Dear Governor Northam:

JAMES CITY

On behalf of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), we want to thank you for your leadership to establish the Commonwealth of Virginia as a renewable energy leader, and for your work to establish Virginia and Hampton Roads as a hub for the offshore wind industry.

NEWPORT NEWS

NORFOLK

The HRPDC represents 17 local governments and over 1.7 million residents in southeastern Virginia. The Commission is responsible for encouraging regional cooperation and planning for the future economic prosperity, resiliency, and health of the Hampton Roads region. Your renewable energy initiatives, particularly your goal to establish Virginia and Hampton Roads as a hub for the offshore wind industry, are significant contributions to this effort. The HRPDC strongly supports your goal to establish Virginia and Hampton Roads as a hub for the offshore wind industry and your proposals to invest in Portsmouth Marine Terminal to ready it for offshore wind development. We also believe your proposal to create a Virginia Office for Offshore Wind will help coordinate efforts to build the U.S. offshore wind supply chain in Hampton Roads

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SMITHFIELD

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

With expected global investment topping \$1 trillion over the next 20 years, the potential for job creation from the offshore wind industry can be transformative for our region. Fortunately, Virginia has the right combination of assets to harness this emerging industry to fuel economic growth by attracting companies up and down a new supply chain to build the nation's offshore wind infrastructure. Our state has unmatched port facilities and the nation's largest and most skilled maritime workforce. No other place on the East Coast offers the same platform for growth for the offshore wind industry. Nevertheless, competition from other states is growing, and it is essential that we act quickly on this opportunity.

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The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
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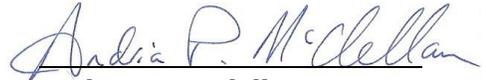
We are excited about the vast potential that this opportunity presents for our Commonwealth and the Hampton Roads region. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue and please don't hesitate to call on HRPDC staff or leadership to support your renewable energy and offshore wind initiatives.

Sincerely,



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Michael J. Hipple  
Chair



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Andria P. McClellan  
Vice Chair

MS/ka

copy: HRPDC Commissioners