



Michael J. Hipple, Chairman
Robert A. Crum, Jr., Executive Director



Laurie A. DiRocco, Chairman
Robert W. Lazaro, Executive Director

January 30, 2019

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

The Honorable Members of the Virginia House of Delegates of the
Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia Regions
Pocahontas Building
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Offshore Wind Development Support

Dear Honorable General Assembly Members of Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia:

We write to you in support of efforts to advance the development of offshore wind in Virginia. Specifically, we ask that you support Governor Northam's budget proposal to create a Virginia Office for Offshore Wind within the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy to advance Virginia's offshore wind interests. The office would serve as a point-of-contact for businesses, help align industry needs with Virginia's maritime workforce capabilities, and develop a plan to achieve the Commonwealth's offshore wind energy goals.

The proposal to create a Virginia Office for Offshore Wind is one of several recommendations from a report released by Governor Northam titled, "The Virginia Advantage: The Roadmap for the Offshore Wind Supply Chain in Virginia". The "Roadmap" analyzes Virginia's strategic position in the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry and provides guidance for the development of an industrial supply chain to serve East Coast offshore wind projects.

Growth of an East Coast offshore wind industry holds tremendous economic development potential for the Commonwealth. Experts believe that the East Coast is one of the most promising areas for offshore wind development in the world. The "Roadmap" estimates that an East Coast pipeline of projects resulting in 8 gigawatts of installed capacity by 2030 would support up to 37,000 jobs per year.

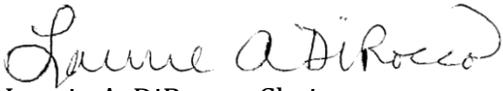
While all of these jobs will not be located in Virginia, the Commonwealth is well-positioned to compete for jobs in certain sectors of the offshore wind industry. Virginia has a unique combination of natural advantages unmatched in other states. These include congestion free navigation with no height restrictions, America's largest shipbuilding and repair industry and maritime workforce, unparalleled port infrastructure, a strategic Mid-Atlantic location, and a pro-business climate.

Creation of an Office for Offshore Wind can also help Virginia attain broader renewable energy goals. In 2018, Virginia announced its intent to become a national renewable energy leader through passage of the Grid Transformation and Security Act (GTSA) and development of the Virginia Energy Plan. The GTSA and Virginia Energy Plan lay the groundwork for developing 5 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2028, including 2 gigawatts from offshore wind. Achievement of these goals, facilitated by an Offshore Wind Office, will provide energy security and diversity, remove millions of tons of carbon dioxide pollution from the atmosphere, and power more than 500,000 homes with clean energy.

In consideration of these economic development opportunities and environmental benefits, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission have passed resolutions supporting offshore wind development in Virginia. On behalf of local elected officials representing over four million Virginians, we urge you to support funding for the Virginia Office for Offshore Wind and consider other initiatives supporting offshore wind development as may be proposed.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Hipple, Chairman
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission


Laurie A. DiRocco, Chairman
Northern Virginia Regional Commission



**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Resolution 2018-02**

**Resolution of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission supporting
offshore wind development off the coast of Virginia**

Whereas, recent reports by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy have identified the potential for significant economic development opportunities for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Hampton Roads region from the emerging offshore wind industry; and

Whereas, the U. S. East Coast opportunity for offshore wind extends from South Carolina to New England and has a twenty-year buildout potential of 20,000 megawatts of installed capacity (2,000 – 3,000 wind turbines) with the potential to generate over 14,000 jobs in the construction, maintenance, manufacturing and other service related industries; and

Whereas, Dominion Energy contracted in 2017 with a global wind leader, Ørsted Energy of Denmark, to build Coastal Virginia Offshore (CVOW), a two turbine, 12 MW demonstration project located 23.5 nautical miles offshore from the Virginia Beach coastline. The CVOW project is targeted for completion in 2020 and will lay the groundwork for potential large-scale commercial development up to 2,000 MW; and

Whereas, studies of the market opportunities for attracting the offshore wind industry to the U. S. East Coast have identified several unique competitive advantages for Virginia and the Hampton Roads region, including:

- Pro-Business Climate
- America's Largest Shipbuilding Industry
- Unmatched Port Infrastructure
- Congestion-Free Harbor Navigation
- Progressive State Energy Policy
- Zero Air Draft for Ocean-Going Vessels
- High-Quality Workforce
- Abundant Waterfront Land and Infrastructure
- Strategic Geographic Location.

Whereas, offshore wind development offers several opportunities for a better energy future and improved quality of life for Virginia residents, including:

- Reduced Reliance on Out-of-State Electricity by 30%
- Elimination of 3 Million Tons of Carbon Dioxide Pollution per Year
- Powering More than 500,000 Homes with Renewable Energy
- Improving Energy Resiliency and Security

Whereas, planning and development of offshore wind projects undergoes a federally mandated environmental review and permitting process which includes input from all affected stakeholders from the local, state and federal levels including environmental agencies, commercial fishing interests and the Department of Defense; and

Whereas, reports by HRPDC, Reinvent Hampton Roads, the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and GO Virginia Region 5 have identified the need to diversify the Hampton Roads economy and create higher-paying jobs by working collaboratively as a region and focusing limited resources on target business sectors; and

Whereas, several organizations have adopted resolutions or provided letters of support for the development of offshore wind off the Virginia coast, including the City of Norfolk, the City of Virginia Beach, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, Reinvent Hampton Roads and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

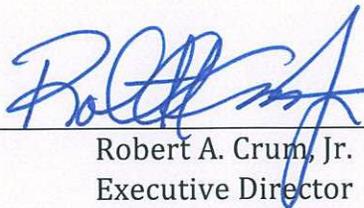
Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission hereby:

1. Agrees to support the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy as well as other state, regional and federal agencies to proactively pursue regional economic development efforts related to the offshore wind supply chain.
2. Agrees to support state and regional workforce development agencies in their efforts to develop new and strengthen existing workforce development programs to further advance the offshore wind supply chain.
3. Agrees to support state and regional partners to develop a Virginia offshore wind branding campaign.
4. Agrees to work with federal, state and regional partners and the Hampton Roads Delegation to identify economic development incentives and infrastructure funding programs to promote development of the offshore wind supply chain.

Approved and Adopted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
this 15th day of November 2018.



Michael J. Hipple
Chair
Hampton Roads
Planning District Commission



Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director
Hampton Roads
Planning District Commission



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 19-02

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director
DATE: September 27, 2018

AUTHORIZATION TO CRAFT, SIGN AND DISPATCH LETTER OF SUPPORT TO SCC FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) has prioritized the development and application of renewable energy to mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy has filed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) for approval to build two 6-megawatt turbines on 2,135 acres of federal waters 27 miles off the shores of Virginia Beach;

WHEREAS, the successful completion of this project by December 2020 could lead to 2,000 additional megawatts of carbon-free generation in an adjacent 112,000 acre wind energy lease area – enough energy to power about half a million homes;

WHEREAS, localities such as the City of Virginia Beach have strongly endorsed the Commonwealth's and Dominion Energy's efforts to promote offshore wind in the mid-Atlantic;

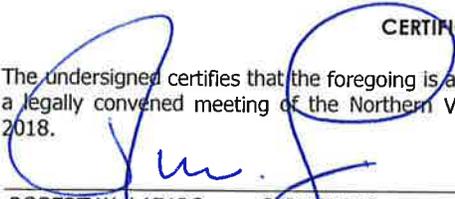
WHEREAS, the SCC has issued its "Order for Notice and Hearing" and set a schedule to receive public testimony on a petition from Dominion Energy "to construct and operate an offshore wind generating project that commences September 14, 2018.";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission is authorized to craft, sign and dispatch a letter of support to the SCC to encourage development and utilization of offshore wind by Dominion Energy.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on September 27, 2018.


ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER