

## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OFFSHORE WIND FARMS OFF NEW JERSEY'S COAST**

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports make it clear that we are in a climate emergency and without taking drastic actions to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases, it will get considerably worse; and,

WHEREAS, offshore wind offers us the opportunity to transition away from the energy sources that have put us in this crisis; and,

WHEREAS, a recent evaluation of our nation's air quality by the American Lung Association found that 8 New Jersey Counties received a grade of F for air quality and that both the greater Philadelphia-Camden region and New York - Newark region were among the nation's unhealthiest; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to auto/truck pollution, fossil fuel power plants and refineries contribute to our poor air quality and transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewable energy like offshore wind will improve air quality and public health, and additional energy will help us to cleanly power an electric car future, making the air our communities breath cleaner and healthier; and,

WHEREAS, manufacturing, constructing and maintaining offshore wind farms will serve as a wholly new industry in the state; and, with at least two ports to support the development of offshore wind, new job hubs will emerge in the state; and,

WHEREAS, inequity and injustice have been the status quo in too many of our communities of color for too long, but advancing offshore wind offers the opportunity to break this cycle by ensuring investments in overburdened communities through community benefit agreements, the training of workers in a wholly new offshore wind industry that could bring living wages and support women and minority owned businesses down the supply chain, in addition to the benefits described above, such as cleaner air and climate impacts like flooding, which disproportionately affect these same communities; and,

WHEREAS, while some fear that offshore wind farms will ruin the view, suppressing tourism and reducing property values in shore towns, offshore wind farms will be located in federal waters, between 10-20 miles offshore; and, will barely be visible; and,

WHEREAS, while some fear that offshore wind transmission cables and substations will ruin our beaches and roads and affect tourism, the cables of offshore wind farms will be installed via horizontal directional drilling and will not require the digging of open trenches; and, all transmission activities will involve stakeholder engagement and must receive permits from the state; and,

WHEREAS, while some fear that offshore wind farms will harm wildlife, including birds and whales, offshore wind farms are designed to have minimal effect on birds, whales; and, other wildlife, which face more significant threats from the climate crisis; and,

WHEREAS, while some fear that offshore wind transmission cables will harm benthic and other bottom dwelling organisms, electro magnetic fields (EMF) cables are buried 4-6 feet under the seafloor and are triple wound and insulated to cancel out and suppress excessive EMFs; and,

WHEREAS, while some fear that offshore wind farms will ruin the fishing industry, offshore wind developers have worked very closely with the commercial fishing community to develop agreements that ensure fishing concerns are addressed and result in Construction & Operation Plans that can even enhance fishing opportunities through the creation of new reef habitat,

And, Whereas, it should be recognized that the public is a key stakeholder in the development of offshore wind,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter fully supports the responsible creation of offshore wind farms off New Jersey's coast as currently being planned and implemented.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Isaac", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Isaac  
Chapter Chair  
April 9, 2022