For Governor-Elect Mikie Sherrill

A Welcome to the World of Offshore Wind Turbines

(And Alternatives to Them)

from

Save Long Beach Island, Inc.

November 20, 2025

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Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill
1427 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington DC 20515.

November 20, 2025

Dear Governor-Elect Sherrill,

On behalf of the 10,000+ supporter Save Long Beach Island organization, I would like to congratulate you on your successful election campaign.

By way of background, I previously oversaw the environmental reviews done by the U.S. Energy Department on its programs and projects, and for a time managed the air quality planning efforts for the State at the DEP. So, I believe that I and others I have and am working with, have a decent understanding of the impacts and costs involved with different energy systems, including the impacts of long range, transported pollutants such as ozone precursors, and carbon emissions related to climate change.

As you can guess from our name, we are, for many reasons, not particularly enamored with the offshore wind project proposed off the Island. However, we are supportive of sensible renewable energy measures.

In that regard, we noticed your support for offshore wind projects during the campaign, but we assume that you are open to alternatives such as natural gas, utility-scale solar and nuclear power that would supply affordable, reliable electricity and maintain a small carbon emission footprint for the State.

So, here we: (1) provide some cost and other information on those electric supply options, (2) present the negatives of the wind project proposed off LBI for your consideration, (3) suggest a differ focus for climate change efforts, and (4) ask that in developing an energy plan your Administration present the “cradle to grave” cost and other impacts of the various options and allow for public input.

With regard to,

Electric Cost and Affordability. The wholesale cost of electricity from offshore wind is four times that from combined cycle natural gas, and twice that for small modular reactors and utility-scale solar which are also relatively clean sources as far as carbon dioxide emissions go. Please see Table 1 of Enclosure 1 (Levelized Cost Comparison of Electric Sources).

Combining the generation cost with other utility costs such as distribution and administration, a single offshore wind project would increase Statewide average electric bills by at least 15 percent. Please see Table 6-1 of Enclosure 2. The full 11,000-megawatt plan envisioned by your predecessor would increase electric bills by at least 89 percent. Please see Table 3-2 of Enclosure 3.

Electric Reliability. Utilities must supply baseload (continuously available) and "peaking" power to meet shorter periods of high electric demand. Offshore wind is obviously intermittent and can only supply peaking power. However, even there the strongest periods of offshore wind off the New Jersey coast at night time and early morning, does not match up well with New Jersey peak demand periods of later morning and earlier evening. So, most of the electric energy generated from New Jersey offshore wind projects will go into the PJM grid. That favor is returned to New Jersey by the grid to meet New Jersey peak demands, but often at higher "marginal" electric rates.

Negative Environmental and Social impacts of Offshore Wind. Not withstanding the lofty phrases, offshore wind projects are by no means clean or green or environmentally benign. Please see Enclosure 4 for major risks involved, including that to our air defense radars, which as a former pilot you might be concerned with.

Climate Change Scope. The climate change problem is as you know is a global phenomenon and is now facing increasing not decreasing global carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Under current global trends, New Jersey reductions in carbon emissions alone will have virtually no impact on the problem. See, for example, Enclosure 5 that shows that due to the time dependent heat transfer involved, a single offshore wind project will only delay, not reduce, whatever sea level rise is coming, and by an insignificant time.

A Different Focus on Climate Change Efforts. If New Jersey wants to lead the climate change effort in a manner that could have significant effect, we would suggest that the focus of the program should be directed less towards what New Jersey can do by itself and more towards demonstrating what, often less exotic, measures can be afforded and socially accepted by the other countries of the world, and then deployed on a large scale to actually have an effect on the problem. Please see Enclosure 6

suggesting a study to identify those measures. We would recommend that the State do such a study, identify those broadly deployable measures, demonstrate them, promote them internationally, and then export them to other countries.

So again, we ask here that before you adopt an energy plan for the State that your Administration engage in a public discourse on what the end goals really are for the State with regard to electric supply and climate change, and then pursue those measures that are affordable, effective and sensible.

We would be more than glad to participate constructively in such a process.

Thank you for considering.

Bob Stern

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Enclosure 1, Wholesale Electric Rate Comparisons. Whitestrand LLC, January, 2025

Enclosure 2, Electric Cost Atlantic Shores South Project, Whitestrand LLC, July, 2024.

Enclosure 3, Electric Cost 11,000-Megawatt Plan, Whitestrand LLC, May, 2025.

Enclosure 4, Benefits and Risks Atlantic Shores South Wind Project. Save LBI, June, 2025.

Enclosure 5, Offshore Wind Project Impact on Sea Level Rise, Save LBI, November, 2024.

Enclosure 6, Climate Change New Focus, Save LBI, September, 2024.