

**Press Release: Save Long Beach Island, Inc.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Atlantic Shore Offshore Wind Project: Last Chance for the South Jersey Shore — Not on Our Watch.**

Long Beach Island, NJ – Our federal and state agencies are on the brink of approving the first phases of the Atlantic Shores project, the closest, most visible, and intrusive offshore wind project in the world, and in the migration path of critically endangered whales.

To stop this madness, Save Long Beach Island, Inc. is taking action to halt this project. Our initiatives include:

- **Petition the Agencies for a Critical Habitat Designation:** We will file a petition to designate the project and adjacent area as a critical migration habitat to protect the whales.
- **Legal Action:** Multiple lawsuits will be filed to protect marine mammals, preserve the sanctity of the shore experience, prevent significant hikes in electric bills, and avert substantial property value losses.
- **Coalition Building:** We will engage in a coalition with other groups and townships along the shore to push back against those who have misrepresented the project's benefits and costs.

If those entities have their way, this will be your last chance to experience a magnificent pristine seashore, save your shore house and business, protect marine life and keep your electric bills from soaring. Once these turbines are placed, they are not coming out. It is not feasible to do so. We will be leaving this blight for generations, a legacy we cannot accept.

### **Destruction of the Shore Experience for Generations.**

The Atlantic Shores project proposes 357 turbines, each standing at 1,048 feet, making it the tallest and closest large-scale offshore wind project in the world. These turbines will be clearly visible and audible from the shore. The rotating blades and navigation lights will pierce the skyline and airborne noise from pile driving and turbine operations will intrude on the serene shore experience. Additionally, local breezes would be reduced by approximately 25%, impacting the local climate. The industrialization of the ocean will destroy one of New Jersey's most cherished natural resources.

Once the ocean is industrialized, there is no turning back. Turbine removal and onshore cutting up at the end of their useful life is not mandatory, the federal agency can decide to leave or topple them in place. It is also not technically feasible. These immense structures will be there for many generations, even after they stop operating, until the ocean itself erodes them.

## **Impact on Marine Mammals**

Despite agency denials, there is overwhelming evidence linking the recent spike in whale and dolphin deaths with the presence of wind company survey vessels. But this is just the beginning. The louder pile driving during turbine foundation construction and long-term operational noise from the full wind complex will continue to pose threats. The operational noise will likely obstruct the migration route of the critically endangered North American right whale, with less than 350 individuals remaining, risking its extinction. Other whale species migrations will also be impeded.

## **Crushing Financial Consequences**

**Increased Electric Rates:** Statewide electric rate increases are projected at 22% for residential, 27% for commercial, and 32% for industrial users, leading to substantial business and job losses.

**Tourism:** According to a recent Tourism Economics study, Ocean County alone could face direct annual losses of \$643 million in revenue and 7,631 jobs, with similar impacts to Atlantic County.

**Property Value Loss:** Long Beach Island would see a \$1.3 billion loss in oceanfront property values, with properties behind those affected as well.

## **Call to Action**

**This is a pivotal moment for the shore environment and land and marine mammals alike.**

This Atlantic Shores project will blight the South Jersey Shore for generations. It should NOT move forward. This cannot be the legacy we leave.

It's also time for government and company officials to stop deluding the public that this project will do anything for climate change. This could be our last chance to save the shore -Act Now:

- go to our website, donate to help fund our lawsuits
- attend our web-listed information sessions
- take your concern to your elected representatives

Save LBI is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and quality of life on Long Beach Island, New Jersey.

**Website:** [www.savelbi.com](http://www.savelbi.com)