

**Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI), Inc.
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Press Release: Save LBI Calls for Protection of Air Quality in Brigantine Natural Wilderness Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Save LBI Demands Accountability from EPA and Atlantic Shores in Protecting Air Quality in Brigantine Natural Wilderness Area

August 14, 2024 – Save Long Beach Island, a coalition of citizens dedicated to protecting our oceans and New Jersey Shore communities, is challenging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s pending approval of the Clean Air Act permit for the Atlantic Shores South offshore wind project on the grounds that the project violates [The Wilderness Act](#) by degrading air quality in the sensitive Brigantine National Wilderness Area, which includes the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

The project involves constructing two hundred 1,048-foot wind turbines, some as close as 8.7 miles from the shoreline. This massive undertaking will require powerful diesel engines to “pile drive” enormous 50-foot-diameter steel foundations deep into the seabed. These activities will produce significant emissions of air pollutants that will harm the pristine wilderness area.

“The Brigantine National Wilderness Area, extending from the southernmost part of Long Beach Island into Brigantine, is a unique and pristine natural environment that is afforded stringent protections from air pollutants under the Clean Air Act said Bob Stern, president and a founder of Save LBI. “The pollutants include fine particles that will affect visibility and fauna and flora.

“The EPA proposes to approve an [application](#) by Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind that improperly and significantly underestimates air quality impacts to this delicate area,” Stern added. “Save LBI intends to challenge the approval in court.”

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System to protect federally designated wilderness areas and “secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.” The law mandates that such areas “shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them *unimpaired* [emphasis added] for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for... the preservation of their wilderness character...”

More Legal Challenges on the Horizon

Save LBI’s air quality challenge is the latest in a series of actions against the destructive impacts of the Atlantic Shores South and Atlantic Shores North projects. Combined, these projects will industrialize the

NJ coastline between Atlantic City and Barnegat Light with the first 357 of a planned 2,400 wind turbines that would ultimately “fence in” the entire NJ coastline from Sandy Hook to Cape May.

As the most shore-intrusive modern wind project in the world, the Atlantic Shores NJ wind-turbine plan violates several other laws in addition to the Wilderness Act and Clean Air Act. Despite this, responsible agencies have denied or downplayed the project’s negative impacts and large environmental organizations have refused to step forward as they did when similar impacts originated from oil and gas development. In response, Save LBI will pursue further legal challenges to...

- Protect marine mammals, including critically endangered whales, under the **Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act**
- Preserve the onshore and offshore experience from airborne noise under **Noise Control and Nuisance law**
- Dispute the project’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the entire governmental review process under the **National Environmental Policy Act**; the review process has not allowed for the consideration of meaningful alternatives, which should be the “heart of any EIS
- Prevent excessive electric bill increases under the State’s **Offshore Wind Energy Development Act** by challenging the highly flawed cost-benefit analysis on which the NJ Board of Public Utilities pending award is based
- Safeguard vessel navigation, fishing, and national defense uses of the ocean under the **Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act**, and
- Protect the NJ coastal zone under the **Coastal Zone Management Act**

About Save LBI

Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI) is a coalition of citizens working together to protect the ocean and Long Beach Island and neighboring communities from the destructive impact of offshore wind projects. As a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization, we do not endorse any political candidates but vigorously pursue policies and actions that protect the Island and surrounding communities. The coalition is led by Beach Haven resident Dr. Bob Stern, an engineer with experience in environmental law who previously managed the U.S. Department of Energy’s office overseeing environment protection related to energy programs and projects.

To assist Save LBI in its litigation efforts to protect our oceans and the natural beauty of the New Jersey coastline, please visit SaveLBI.org and consider making a donation.