

## OPEN LETTER

May 27, 2023

Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1617

Re: Offshore Wind Development

Dear Congressman Pallone:

We understand that you support Offshore Wind Development (OSW). You support OSW development because you see the potential for jobs and you don't believe that the current deaths of whales, dolphins, and other sea creatures are because of the sonic floor mapping by the offshore wind companies. We are very surprised with your position in light of your district's shore location and the number of current jobs dependent on our ocean environment, but more importantly, for the unexpected deaths of the whales and dolphins. You would not be the first Congressional member that has failed to remember who they represent.

Protect Our Coast NJ is a non-partisan group of individuals that has come together to protect our coastal communities and marine life, including the last remaining 343 North Atlantic Right Whales from extinction. We are particularly concerned with the impact OSW development will have on the federally protected endangered wildlife including many species of whales, birds, fish, and horseshoe crabs. We have witnessed the unprecedented tragic deaths of whales and dolphins that these OSW wind companies have federal permission to harass or kill if necessary to complete their work (two whales just washed up this last week). We remember when you were in the NJ General Assembly and Senate how much more aggressive you were protecting our environment and marine life!

You argue that climate crisis is the greatest threat to marine mammals and their habitats. This is your and the Murphy Administration's justification for exterminating the North Atlantic Right Whale? We are aghast at this proposition. Clean energy is not clean if it will force a species to go extinct! We are especially concerned that with all this additional cost, negative impact to our ocean environment, and the expected job losses from OSW development, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management says that OSW energy will have little collective impact on global warming.

You claim that many groups are providing misinformation about OSW preconstruction activity and its impact on the marine mammal deaths without any scientific evidence. However, you fail to recognize that both State and Federal governments are moving forward with the industrialization of our oceans with little if any scientific review. The Assembly Science, Innovation, and Technology Committee recently held a hearing to review OSW development.

The hearing was a lopsided review of those that support OSW development. It would have been a better review of the issues if the Committee included opponents to the OSW development to hear all sides of the issues. Unfortunately, the Committee failed to invite any of the scientists that have expressed alarm at the industrialization of our ocean and the OSW impact to our environment.

The construction of the offshore wind facilities will have an irreversible, devastating impact on our coastal communities whose economies and livelihoods depend on a healthy ocean. These offshore wind turbines will impact our electricity rates, tourism, national security, foreign interests, rights of home rule, fishing, property values, environmental impact, and quality of life. Utility rates will essentially go up 3-4 times current rates for generating units that only operate when the wind blows.

If officials such as yourself are serious about mitigating the effects of climate change and moving away from reliance on fossil fuels, you would instead be heavily investing in other proven, reliable, carbon-free generator technologies. In fact, whales and the ocean itself are responsible for capturing more CO2 at greater efficiencies than some of our modern technologies. But, public officials' big bets on inefficient and intermittent wind energy will keep us hooked on fossil fuels in perpetuity as they will always be needed to provide baseload power.

As the top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee with over 35 years in Congress, we would hope/expect that you would do more to help save our communities and sea life from this industrialization for us and our future generations.

Sincerely,

Protect Our Coast NJ