

NJ is Our State, Governor Murphy!

Protect Our Coast NJ (POCNJ) supports clean energy but not at the expense of our environment. We are simply individuals that are independent and non-partisan that have come together to protect our coastal communities and marine life, including the last remaining 344 North Atlantic Right whales from extinction.

We have been forced to come together to protect our ocean environment because our state and federal governments have failed to complete their economic and environmental impact studies of this massive, rapid, and unprecedented expansion of offshore wind industrialization. At risk are federally protected endangered wildlife including many species of whales, birds, fish, and horseshoe crabs. We have witnessed an unusual number of tragic deaths of whales and dolphins that these offshore wind companies have federal permission to harass or kill if necessary to complete their work. The government says there is no evidence of a causal relationship between offshore prep work and these cetacean fatalities; however, there is no evidence because comprehensive studies **have not been done**.

The construction of the offshore wind facilities will also have an irreversible, devastating impact on our coastal communities whose economies and livelihoods depend on a healthy ocean. They will also impact our utility rates for essentially peaking units that usually operate only when the wind is blowing more than 12 mph and less than 45 mph, depending on design standards. So, ratepayers will be paying 3-4 times more for electricity that will only be produced at most about 50% of the time, if the wind is blowing. In the meantime, the offshore wind companies will be digging up our ocean floor to bury thousands of miles of transmission lines and cables 4-6 feet underground. The lines and turbines themselves require oil and oil-based liquids to operate and offshore wind companies point out that they will have to be replaced every 25 years. Additionally, the lines will have an impact on the increased amount of Electric & Magnetic Fields going through our communities. This development will also impact the protected pine barrens because transmission lines must be upgraded.

Our public officials have failed to explain the benefits of offshore wind energy. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management says that offshore wind energy will have little collective impact on global warming. Certainly, mitigating the damaging effects of climate change and reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels is important, but will offshore wind provide significant reductions compared to the CO₂ increases we can expect to see from the construction and use of offshore wind turbines? If these officials were serious about mitigating the effects of climate change and moving away from reliance on fossil fuels, they 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

when these offshore wind facilities cannot produce enough, a conveniently-omitted reality from those calling for 100% renewable energy.

Governor Murphy's offshore wind plans will impact our electricity rates, tourism, national security, foreign interests, rights of home rule, fishing, property values, environmental impact, and quality of life. Yet, these adverse impacts go unexplained while the industrialization of our ocean continues to be rammed through with complete disregard to the Endangered Species Act, citizens' right to home rule, and no final impact studies. What's the hurry? Is it because Governor Murphy is afraid that if citizens understand the full scope of his plans to industrialize the ocean, they will be opposed? Suzanne Hornick, POCNJ founding member, has said that taking away our rights to decide on offshore wind development is un-American.

We are very fortunate to have a remarkable environment, from the Highlands to the Pinelands to the Jersey Shore. Our coastline and ocean are national treasures every New Jerseyan wants to protect, especially the marine life so dependent on our stewardship! We oppose offshore wind development.

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