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Iowa

Gov. Terry E. Branstad
Chairman

Rhode Island

Gov. Gina M. Raimondo
Vice Chairman

June 29, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Reid, and Leader Pelosi:

We write as a governor of a state with a long history of innovation and success in the wind industry and a governor of a state poised for tremendous economic and energy benefits of offshore wind energy. Offshore wind can become an abundant source of renewable energy for many of our states and the nation's largest cities, yet today there is only one commercial project underway off the coast of Rhode Island. In contrast, the United Kingdom has 6 GW of offshore wind, and installation of new turbines continues. Congressional support for the nation's offshore wind sector would create tens of thousands of jobs in businesses ranging from research and development to engineering to manufacturing to marine construction.

This vast offshore energy resource — which stretches from Washington to Texas to Maine and the Great Lakes states — cannot be developed without a long-term and stable federal and state policy foundation that reassures private sector developers to make major investments in the nation's offshore wind industry. The offshore market is enormous and can help further diversify our nation's energy portfolio: nearly 60 percent of the nation's population lives in coastal states. Other nations have adopted policy incentives that have created a strong international wind industry. The U.S. has a tremendous opportunity to adopt policies that will allow the United States to be a leader in offshore wind development.

Planning, obtaining various siting approvals, and negotiating power purchase agreements make it very difficult to meet existing investment tax incentive deadlines. The adoption of a longer-term national policy foundation is critical to the development of the offshore wind industry.

Our assessment of the U.S. Department of Energy's *Wind Vision* report and the *Offshore Wind Market and Economic Analysis* is that the states' offshore wind industry, including locations in the Great Lakes, will not grow without a policy foundation that enables deep water wind development and signals that the nation is serious about offshore development.

Suggested national policy options have included a long-term investment tax credit, support for development of state port facilities through the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program and the Modified Accelerated Cost-Recovery System (MACRS), and streamlined offshore siting by various federal agencies.

Regardless of the legislative mechanism you select, we respectfully urge you to act promptly. Thank you for your support of the nation's offshore wind energy sector.

Sincerely,



Terry E. Branstad
Chairman and
Governor of Iowa



Gina M. Raimondo
Vice Chairman and
Governor of Rhode Island

cc:

Members, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Members, Senate Finance Committee

Members, House Ways and Means Committee

The Honorable Ernie Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

The Honorable Brian Deese, Counselor to the President

The Honorable Christy Goldfuss, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality