

Resolution to Move Forward on Offshore Wind Development

Whereas The State of New Hampshire has committed to 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050, but has yet to develop a plan to achieve that goal, and needs to work toward a sustainable energy system to ensure protection of the health of its people, environment, and economy before this date, *and*

Whereas the federal Department of Energy has determined that the Gulf of Maine has a total potential wind power capacity in excess of 200,000 Megawatts within 50 miles of the coasts of New Hampshire, Maine and northeast Massachusetts, and that utilizing just a small percentage of this potential, combined with other renewable resources, could provide most of the future power needs of our region, *and*

Whereas operation of floating wind farms 10 to 50 miles off our coast is expected to have much less impact on our environment and public health than all existing power sources, as well as create less aesthetic concern than terrestrial wind farms, *and*

Whereas development and operation of offshore wind farms have the potential to create large numbers of jobs and other economic activity within Portsmouth Harbor and other NH coastal communities, and

Whereas a bipartisan NH legislative study committee report in 2015 concluded that "The wind resource off of New Hampshire's coast has the potential to generate significant amounts of electricity," and that "offshore wind development has the potential to generate significant economic activity within Portsmouth Harbor..." recommending that the Governor request formation of an intergovernmental Task Force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development,

Resolved, the Town/City of _____ supports efforts to develop wind power off the New Hampshire coast and urges Governor Sununu to make a formal request to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to form a Task Force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. Further, the Town/City Council will send written notice of support for this resolution to Governor Sununu within 30 days of its passage.