

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the Delaware State Senate Republican Caucus, we extend our congratulations on your inauguration as the 47th President of the United States. Your decisive actions during your first 24 hours in office, including halting new offshore wind leases and permits, reflect your commitment to safeguarding our coastal communities and their economies.

We write to thank you for these critical steps and to request further action regarding the offshore wind project already approved for development off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland. While we recognize the importance of renewable energy, we remain deeply concerned about the potential impacts of this particular project on our region.

Delaware's coastal economy has grown five times faster than the rest of the state from 2012 to 2022, contributing \$14.2 billion in revenue and supporting over 104,000 jobs. This activity generates \$6.5 billion in labor income and adds \$3.3 billion in tax revenue annually. The region is an irreplaceable engine of growth for Delaware and neighboring states. We are concerned that the visibility of towering wind turbines from our pristine shorelines could deter visitors, thereby harming businesses and families who rely on this vital industry.

Additionally, the offshore wind project raises significant concerns about maritime navigation. This busy stretch of the Atlantic is critical for commercial vessels, fishing fleets, and recreational boaters. The turbines' placement risks complicating these routes, potentially leading to safety hazards and economic disruptions.

Perhaps most critically, questions about the long-term environmental and economic impacts of offshore wind projects remain unresolved. Without definitive, independent studies confirming that these projects' benefits outweigh their risks—especially for communities like ours, which rely so heavily on thriving coastlines—we believe it is premature to allow such developments to proceed.

We respectfully urge you and your incoming Interior Secretary, Doug Burgum, to revoke the existing lease and permits for the Ocean City offshore wind project. Taking this action would demonstrate a continued commitment to protecting coastal economies, navigation safety, and environmental integrity.

Thank you for your leadership and for your dedication to preserving the natural and economic treasures of America's coastlines. We stand ready to collaborate with your administration to ensure that renewable energy development proceeds in a balanced, responsible manner.

Sincerely,

Senator Gerald Hocker, Senate Republican Leader
Senator Brian Pettyjohn, Senate Republican Whip
Senator David Lawson
Senator Bryant Richardson
Senator David Wilson
Senator Eric Buckson