



April 23, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our support for building America's first offshore wind project and to urge your administration to approve this project this month.

The Cape Wind Energy Project ("Cape Wind"), which would be sited in federal waters in Nantucket Sound, would produce up to 468 megawatts of clean, renewable American-made power, enough to meet 75% of the electricity demand of Cape Cod and the Islands.

Approving Cape Wind is also consistent with protecting our oceans. Based on the required federal environmental review studies and our own review, the environmental benefits of Cape Wind outweigh any potential environmental impacts. The Department of the Interior has also incorporated environmental mitigation and monitoring requirements for the project, as our groups had urged.

As a result of your leadership on global warming, last year more than two dozen nations came together in Copenhagen and signed the historic Copenhagen Accord, under which both developed and developing nations agreed to reduce their global warming emissions and to register national commitments on global warming reduction goals. Moving ahead with the Cape Wind project is the first step toward developing the United States' plentiful offshore wind resources, and is critical to meeting our nation's global warming commitments.

Approval of Cape Wind will also help to position the United States as a leader on renewable energy by signaling that we are ready at last to tap into the nation's immense offshore renewable energy potential, a key element of moving forward with building a green economy and creating green jobs. In Europe, nine countries have already built more than three dozen offshore wind projects, totaling more than 2,000 megawatts. China has just completed construction of its first commercial offshore wind facility, and is

already a world leader in manufacturing offshore wind turbines. If Cape Wind is approved, we can finally enter the race to become the world's leader on offshore wind.

We commend Secretary Salazar for conducting a thorough and open examination of the project's environmental impacts, and for his respectful outreach to all stakeholders. Secretary Salazar has stated that his goal is to issue a decision on Cape Wind by the end of this month. We urge your administration to meet this goal and to approve Cape Wind.

Respectfully,



Frances Beinecke, President, NRDC



Kevin Knobloch, President, Union of Concerned Scientists



John Kassel, President, Conservation Law Foundation



Laura Johnson, President, Mass Audubon

cc: Hon. Ken Salazar
Hon. Carol Browner
Hon. Lisa Jackson
Hon. John Kerry
Hon. Scott Brown