



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
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April 29, 2020

Annie Hawkins, Executive Director
Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA)
P.O. Box 66704
Washington, D.C. 20035

Dear Executive Director Hawkins and Members of RODA,

I am writing in response to your letter dated April 14, 2020 regarding your concerns around offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. These have been challenging times for all, and this is especially true for those men and women who rely on the resources of the Gulf of Maine to support their businesses and families.

I remain a strong supporter of renewable energy as part of the solution to combatting climate change and growing Maine's economy. As I recently saw firsthand in Scotland, offshore wind is proving to be a significant energy and economic resource. Maine should continue to actively pursue this opportunity; however, I fully appreciate that we must go at a pace that recognizes the strain being experienced within the fishing industry.

Any new opportunity for potential offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine must fully consider all commercial fishing and maritime interests as well as habitat and natural resources – and must seek to minimize impacts and maximize compatibility. Last year, I announced the Maine Offshore Wind Initiative, led by the Governor's Energy Office, which entails a thoughtful approach to development and which emphasizes compatibility between potential future uses and existing uses in the Gulf of Maine to inform offshore wind siting considerations and to minimize any impact on Maine's commercial fishing and maritime industries.

At this time no regulatory meetings are scheduled related to offshore wind siting or development. As any plans for meetings are developed over the course of the coming months, we will work with RODA and others in the Maine fishing industry to ensure that we organize a stakeholder process that is mindful of immediate health and business impacts from COVID-19.

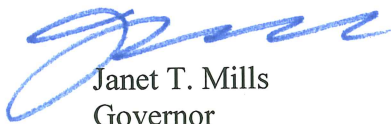
Dan Burgess, Director of my Energy Office will be in touch with you soon for further conversations on the best ways we can work with the fishing community to streamline our approach and develop a working model that recognizes both the need for regional coordination as well as state-specific issues in the context of the broader marine interests in the Gulf of Maine.



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I remain optimistic that collaboration and open communication will foster innovation and allow us to benefit from the Gulf of Maine's marine *and* wind energy resources.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor

CC: Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, BOEM
Governor Charlie Baker
Governor Chris Sununu



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