



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
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Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
SECRETARY

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June 29, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Baker as well as to Governors Sununu and Mills and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Acting Director Dr. Walter Cruickshank regarding offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. Massachusetts is committed to the responsible development of offshore wind which recognizes our fishing industry as an important part of the Commonwealth's economy and culture.

Balancing historic and future uses of our shared coastal and ocean resources is critical as we work to meet our renewable energy goals for reducing the Commonwealth's carbon emissions. Offshore wind is an integral component of our future renewable energy portfolio, and we believe we can work together with partners and stakeholder on appropriate offshore wind development, while ensuring the sustainable future for commercial and recreational fishing in the Commonwealth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had deep and far-reaching impacts, and our primary focus continues to be on the response to this unprecedented public health emergency. When the appropriate time comes, we look forward to resuming our public and stakeholder work on offshore wind, including any meetings of the Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Wind. Further, as a member of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, we have had discussions with BOEM and our partners in Maine and New Hampshire, and we share a commitment to ensure that the Task Force process proceeds on a timeline that accounts for the challenges of pandemic recovery and provides for meaningful opportunities for critical public and stakeholder input. We want to make sure that there are robust forums for industry participation, and the input and guidance of Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) members and many others will be important to assessing data needs and identifying and implementing mechanisms to fill priority data gaps such as the spatial and temporal extent of lobster fishing in the Gulf of Maine and other information. We are also supportive of discussing ways to broaden and expand the existing and newly formed state working groups.

My agencies and offices are committed to working with the fishing industry throughout this process. In the future, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to me or my staff with concerns such as those shared in your letter. We look forward to advancing the shared goals of carbon emission reduction and supporting existing ocean uses in the Gulf of Maine, including commercial and recreational fishing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Theoharides".

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary