February 22, 2021

Amanda Leflon
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Leflon,

We are writing today to express our enthusiasm for the South Fork Wind Farm, and specifically the Proposed Action set forward in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). We hope to see this project come to fruition as the first commercial scale offshore wind farm to provide electricity into New York State, serving both our clean energy needs at a competitive cost, as well as proving economic benefits to New York residents. After years of delay, we believe this project should be approved in a timely way so that we can restore confidence in the U.S. offshore wind market and demonstrate our deep commitment to accelerating clean energy in the U.S.

South Fork Wind is critical for the clean, reliable power it will provide. The wind farm will use up to 15 turbines and a state-of-the-art transmission system that will generate enough clean energy to power 70,000 Long Island homes. The wind farm will displace millions of tons of carbon emissions, the equivalent of taking approximately 60,000 cars off the road. In fact, power needs on the South Fork are growing faster than anywhere else on Long Island.

South Fork is also vital for the jobs and economic benefits it brings. South Fork Wind has committed to hiring union professionals to build and assist in creating the green energy future in New York State. They have committed to paying these workers a prevailing wage, which ensures they are properly compensated for their work. These construction jobs will establish a new market in New York and help to reinvigorate the New York economy following the COVID-19 epidemic.

Finally, the project has been a model for cooperation between the developer and all levels of government and stakeholders. Project developers Ørsted and Eversource have worked with each level of government and taken advice and commentary on how to be the kind of corporate neighbors the Town of East Hampton, Long Island, and the State of New York demands of them. They have made union commitments. They have provided a hosting agreement to the East Hampton government in return for easements allowing burial of the onshore cables connecting the windfarm to the Long Island grid. They have held hearings and meetings with stakeholders on the ground and have worked to incorporate that feedback into their work. BOEM’s review of this project has shown that the majority of the impacts in the DEIS are moderate or below. One alternative identified in the review, the 4 nautical mile transit alternative, we believe BOEM should reject and instead approve the 1 X 1 nautical

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In summation, we believe the permit should be approved for South Fork Wind Farm as it helps our nation move toward the job-producing, green energy goals necessary in order to rebound our economy from COVID-19 and combat climate change.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress (NY-03)

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress (NY-05)

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress (NY-04)