February 22, 2021

Program Manager
Office of Renewable Energy
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OREP
Sterling, Virginia 20166

To Whom It May Concern:

The Long Island Association (LIA), which is the leading business organization in the region, and the Long Island Builders Institute (LIBI), which represents residential real estate developers in the region, supports South Fork Wind. This project will deliver clean power for more than 70,000 homes annually to Long Island in New York, reduce our carbon footprint and spur economic growth in the form good jobs and critical investments into our communities.

As we continue to recover economically from the unprecedented social and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the approval of this project will directly lead to the creation of jobs and critical long-term investments in our region. This project is supported by a broad group of stakeholders representing the business community, environmental advocates and the community members most impacted by this project.

As it relates to the business community, based on a New York State 2019 Clean Energy Industry Report, the state’s clean energy industry employed more than 158,000 New Yorkers, approximately 123,000 in energy efficiency and 22,000 in renewable electric power generation (a nearly 9% increase from 2016-2018, which is more than double the average job growth in New York). But in March and April, more than 20,000 New Yorkers who worked in the clean energy sector lost their jobs, with those trends continuing in subsequent months. Offshore wind projects like South Fork Wind are crucial to revitalizing the industry and providing new and sustainable employment opportunities for a skilled workforce.

Offshore wind has the potential to help drive economic recovery and stimulate coastal economies up and down the east coast. As the second commercial-scale offshore wind project in the United States, South Fork Wind could play a critical role in establishing a domestic offshore wind industry and realizing that industry’s tremendous potential economic benefits.

Accordingly, the LIA and LIBI urge BOEM to stick to its published schedule and allow this important new industry to revitalize the region’s economy and strengthen our environment when it is so desperately needed. Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Kevin Law
President & CEO
Long Island Association

Mitch Pally
CEO
Long Island Builders Institute