

MARITIME TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER BOSTON AND NEW ENGLAND AFL-CIO

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Karen Adams
Cape Wind Energy Project EIS Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
Regulatory Division
696 Virginia Road
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February 22, 2005

RE: Cape Wind

FROM: Dan Kuhs
Vice President Maritime Trades Council

Our organization represents seventy thousand unionized workers engaged in marine and maritime related industries. Skilled local workers that range from fishermen, to merchant mariners, dock workers, dredge and ferry workers, pile drivers and may other marine and building trades personnel. My responsibility is to these individuals that make their living on the water. It is with that responsibility in mind that we have studied the Cape Wind project to determine if this proposal is in the interest of the members that we represent. The potential development of any maritime opportunities deserves objective scrutiny and unbiased perspective. Therefore, we set out on a thorough review of the potentials of the wind industry and the viability of Cape Wind. We sent representatives to numerous public hearings and to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Cape and Islands Offshore Wind Stakeholder Process. We listened to the testimony of Government officials and third party experts and reviewed the published results of the MTC process. We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released by the Army Corps of Engineers. We feel that the stringent regulatory process that the project is currently going through, thoroughly addresses any environmental and sitting issues. Upon completion of our review of the Cape Wind project, the Marine Trades Council has unanimously endorsed Cape Wind because of the overwhelming environmental and economic benefits of this renewable energy project.

Cape Wind will benefit our economy. Energy is the cornerstone of our economy, representing 10% of our gross domestic product. However, in 2002, the United States spent about \$103 billion dollars outside the country for oil, creating a trade deficit that would not be tolerated in other economic sectors. The Department of Energy predicts that domestic oil production is expected to decrease. Every dollar spent on energy imports is a dollar that the local economy loses. Renewable energy resources, however, are developed locally. The dollars spent on energy stay at home, creating more jobs and fostering economic growth.

M.T.C. Affiliates

Boston Plasters & Cement Masons
Local #534

Building & Construction Trades Council
of the Metropolitan District

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
Local #101

International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers
Local #225

International Brotherhood of
Firemen & Oilers
Local #3, SFH

International Longshoremen's Association

International Organization of
Master, Mates & Pilots

International Union of Elevator
Constructors Local #4

International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local #4 & It's Branches

Massachusetts AFL-CIO

National Maritime Union of America, SIUNA

Painters & Allied Trades
Local Council #15

Pile Drivers Local Union #56

Pipelitter's Association
Local Union #537, U.A.

Seafarers International Union of
North America, AFL-CIO

American Maritime Officers

Sheet Metal Workers
International Association
Local Union #17

United Brotherhood of Carpenters
and Joiners Millwright Local #1121

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Cape Wind will create substantial maritime construction jobs. Results of the New York State Office of Energy Study show, renewable energy technologies are labor intensive, creating 66% more jobs than natural gas facilities and 27% more jobs than coal facilities. A recent study reports that Cape Wind will generate an estimated 600 to 1,000 jobs. State economic output will increase by between \$85 million and \$137 million annually, and labor income will increase by between \$32 million and \$52 Million annually.

Additionally and as important to our membership is the positive impact the project will have on the environment. The completion of this project will result in a power generation system that is pollution free, as our Nation is facing serious energy supply challenges, air quality and global warming concerns, and continued dependency upon foreign fuel sources; it is time to encourage the development of clean and renewable energy projects like Cape Wind.

Many of the trades represented by the Maritime Council have historically worked in an industry noted for respiratory illness and disease, for these reasons our membership looks forward to constructing and maintaining this non-polluting energy source as their contribution to a cleaner environment for both them and their families.

It is critical that the Army Corp of Engineers maintain their role as the Federal Authority in permitting this project and not be unduly influenced by various State Agencies that have no authority in this project beyond what is their legal jurisdiction of state waters (i.e. Cape Cod Commission, and the Energy Facilities Siting Board).

We ask that the Cape Wind project not be held to a higher standard than similar offshore construction projects, such as the Deer Island outfall diffuser project. This project was met with similar protest by a vocal minority on the Cape and Islands; it has had no adverse environmental impact, but it continues to show a positive effect on the quality of Massachusetts Bay waters.

Sincerely,



Dan Kuhs
Vice-president
Boston & New England
Maritime Trades Council

* I may be reached at 617-443-1988 / E-mail drk@piledriverslu56.org for any further comments or questions.