

# POWER-US

PARTNERSHIP FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY RESEARCH

## MASSACHUSETTS

25 August 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

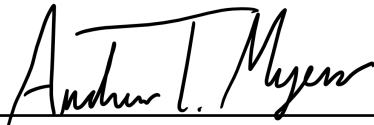
Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We write in strong support of *H.R. 3609, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act*, and urge that the House pass an energy innovation package this year that includes this legislation. Specifically, H.R. 3609 would update the Department of Energy (DOE) wind energy program for the first time in more than a decade and help advance world-leading research and development for offshore wind. Offshore wind is an abundant, renewable, carbon-free, U.S.-based source of energy. With targeted investments, research universities and national laboratories working in partnership with private industry and government agencies can significantly improve the performance, reliability, and cost of offshore wind systems. Since offshore wind resources are conveniently located where most Americans live, this energy source can meet over half of the nation's electricity demand. DOE's programs will also help prepare the next-generation workforce for the energy transition.

Reliable and robust DOE investments in offshore wind, especially from DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office, are critical to ensuring U.S. energy innovation and competitiveness worldwide. As the Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Research (POWER-US) in Massachusetts, we work as a team to understand the offshore wind system as a whole, and to assist public sector decision makers in charting the right path through the coming energy transition. In particular, we support authorization for research efforts that improve ocean data collection and analysis of meteorological, geological, oceanographic, and biological information, and ensure that integrated U.S. expertise in energy and oceans is the best in the world. We support research focused on corrosion, fatigue, digital twinning, and extreme loads to extend the design life, improve maintenance, and improve resiliency of offshore wind turbines, enabling them to last for generations to come. We support research focused on the integration of offshore wind and other renewable resources into the electric grid as we head down the path to a carbon-neutral economy. We also support research into the social and environmental aspects of offshore wind energy to ensure that design and operation meshes with other ocean uses such as fishing, marine commerce, and habitat protection. Finally, we support the expansion of national offshore wind turbine testing facilities for support structures, blades, nacelles, wind and wave loads, and the electricity grid to validate designs, reduce costs, and reduce risk before full-scale deployment.

We thank you for your leadership in advancing offshore wind. We sincerely hope that you will provide an opportunity for the House to pass a comprehensive energy innovation bill, and we ask that H.R. 3609 be included in that legislative package. Please let us know how we can help you advance this important legislation.

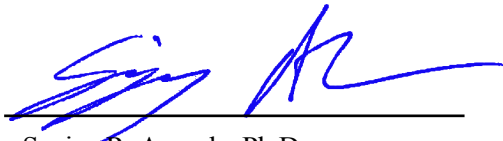
Sincerely,



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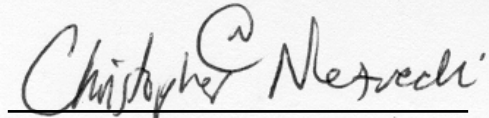
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CC:

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Representative Frank Lucas  
Representative Lizzie Fletcher  
Representative Randy Weber