

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 29, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries,

We write to you today to urge you to prioritize increased funding for the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) offshore wind programs as you work to resolve differences in the House and Senate appropriations bills.

As you know, the current administration has set an ambitious goal to reach 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. Despite some setbacks, due in part to supply chain issues and in part to the infancy of the industry, the administration has admirably continued to pursue this aggressive timeline. In fact, BOEM, the primary agency charged with managing activity related to leasing, permitting, and approving projects in federal waters, has already moved commensurately to expedite and approve as many as 15 gigawatts of offshore wind.¹ This recent development brings us halfway to the administration's goal and will produce enough energy to power close to 5.2 million homes across the country. It is critically important that we continue building on this momentum to encourage offshore wind development, spur innovation, create jobs, and move us towards a cleaner energy future.

The benefits of offshore wind are far reaching and comprehensive. They extend beyond political boundaries, creating economic opportunities in states and regions represented by those across the political ideological spectrum. Investing in BOEM's permitting capacity will allow us to reap the myriad benefits of this resource across the country at the pace of rapidly increasing demand. These additional resources will allow BOEM to expedite reviews while maintaining comprehensive stakeholder engagement and environmental analysis to ensure that projects carefully consider impacts on marine life and ensure co-existence with incumbent industries. The continued diversification of energy sources to include renewables such as offshore wind increases American's safety, provides good-paying jobs, and brings us closer to our goal of domestic energy independence, free from the unpredictable whims of the nation's geopolitical rivals.

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/09/05/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-hits-offshore-wind-milestone-continues-to-advance-clean-energy-opportunities/#:~:text=With%20this%20approval%2C%20the%20nation,achieve%20the%2030%20gigawatt%20goal.>

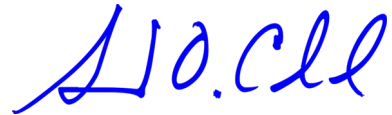
Unfortunately, we were disappointed to see that in the both the House and Senate versions of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025, BOEM was funded at levels below the President's Budget Request. The House version of the bill (H.R. 8998), cuts funding for BOEM by 11%, which is \$43 million below the President's Budget Request. The Senate version of the bill (S. 4802), while it does include a modest increase in total BOEM funding from FY24 levels, still falls short of the President's Budget Request by \$26 million. More specifically, it appropriates \$10 million less than the President's Budget Request for BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy which is the primary office responsible for offshore wind permitting.

To reiterate, Congress' full-throated support and commensurate investment in the domestic growth of the offshore wind industry is an economic and national security imperative. Creating good-paying jobs across the country and guaranteeing American energy independence by supporting BOEM in the timely, efficient, and accurate review of applications must be a bipartisan priority as you work to resolve differences in the House and Senate appropriations bills. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



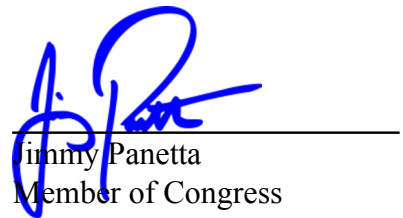
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



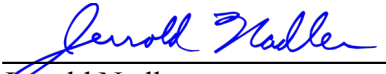
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



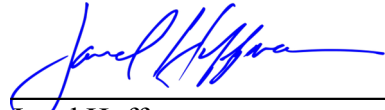
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



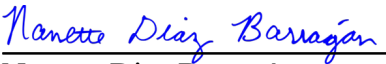
Jared Huffman
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