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Congress of the United States  
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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND  
LIMITED GOVERNMENT

CRIME AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE OF COUNTERTERRORISM & INTELLIGENCE

December 23, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Pete Hegseth  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Burgum and Secretary Hegseth:

I write to you regarding the Department of Interior's recent decision to pause the leases for all large-scale offshore wind projects currently under construction in the United States, ostensibly due to new national security risks identified by the Department of Defense.<sup>1</sup> One such project, Empire Wind 1, is based in my district, and the decision to arbitrarily put this project on hold will have significant negative impacts on communities across New York by driving up energy costs, wasting billions of dollars of investment in American manufacturing, and cutting thousands of jobs in and around my district.

As you know, Empire Wind 1 is an offshore wind power facility located off the coast of Long Island. The project began construction on its offshore wind power generation facilities over a year ago and is currently in its final phase of development, with first power expected to be delivered to residents in New York in 2026.<sup>2</sup> This project is an economic driver for the state of New York, helping to create over 4,000 jobs, and is expected to generate upwards of 810 megawatts of electricity, enough to power an estimated 500,000 homes.<sup>3</sup>

Since President Trump took office in January, electricity prices are up 13 percent nationwide,<sup>4</sup> and the cost of electricity is climbing more than twice as fast as the rate of inflation.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, with a significant increase in high-energy data centers around the country, demand for energy will continue to increase, placing additional upward pressure on energy prices in New York.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/trump-administration-protects-us-national-security-pausing-offshore-wind-leases>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.empirewind.com/project/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.empirewind.com/ew-1/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://climatepower.us/energy-crisis/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/16/nx-s1-5502671/electricity-bill-high-inflation-ai>

Instead of embracing offshore wind's potential to lower costs for New Yorkers, the decision to pause Empire Wind 1's lease is yet another example of the President's illogical, irrational, and economically irresponsible vendetta against renewable energy.

In addition to its many environmental and economic benefits, investing in renewable energy improves our national security by reducing our reliance on foreign adversaries for energy supply and helps the U.S. compete with China for world dominance in the industry.<sup>6</sup> Yet the Department of the Interior's press release oddly — and for the first time — cites national security concerns as the principal rationale for the current decision to pause construction of Empire Wind 1. The press release cites classified documents supplied by the Department of Defense in support of this assertion.

Accordingly, pursuant to my Constitutional oversight duties, I hereby request access to the documents cited in the press release and a classified briefing with both the Departments of Interior and Defense when Congress is next in session the week of January 5, 2026. I expect to receive confirmation of both no later than January 5.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Goldman', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2025-10-21/china-s-offshore-wind-firms-push-ahead-while-the-west-retreats>