

## **Organizations Commenting in Support of Offshore Wind and the South Fork Wind Farm**

Vision Long Island

Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Cornell Cooperative Extension

National Wildlife Federation

Surfrider

Defend H2O

Group for the East End

Climate Reality Project

Sierra Club of Suffolk County

Nature Conservancy

Southernhampton Sustainability Committee

**CITIZENS  
CAMPAIGN  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**



www.citizenscampaign.org

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- 744 Broadway • Albany, NY 12207  
518-772-1862
- 733 Delaware Road, Box 140 • Buffalo, NY 14223  
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- 2404 Whitney Avenue, 2nd Fl. • Hamden, CT 06518  
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Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

June 7, 2018

Honorable Peter Van Scoyoc  
East Hampton Town Supervisor  
159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, New York 11937



**Re: CCE urges East Hampton Town to vote yes on Deep Water Wind Cable Connection**

Dear Supervisor Scoyoc,

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is an 80,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers communities and advocates solutions to protect public health and the natural environment in New York and Connecticut. For over a decade, CCE has advocated for advancing well-sited, environmentally responsible renewable energy projects and phasing out the use of antiquated fossil fuels on Long Island and throughout the state. On the south fork, we are at an energy crossroads and must decide between building a new fossil fuel power plant or building New York's first offshore wind farm, which will power 50,000 homes with home-grown renewable energy. **CCE urges the Town of East Hampton to choose Deep Water Wind's offshore wind project to meet the Town's energy needs.**

The Town has a laudable goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2020 and the potential to become a national leader in the fight against climate change. Climate change is real, it is here, and it poses an existential threat to our south fork communities. The Town must be a leader in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and embrace offshore wind if East Hampton is going to achieve its renewable energy goals and do its part to mitigate climate change locally. Let's be clear, the choice is not offshore wind or nothing; it is offshore wind or fossil fuels. ***Rejecting offshore wind, is by default, approving continued reliance on fossil fuels. This is contradictory to the Town's commitment of advancing renewable energy.***

All of our energy choices have impacts on environment, health, and wildlife, but it is our responsibility to choose the least harmful and most environmentally protective option. Climate change and our continued reliance on fossil fuels pose the greatest risk to wildlife and the health of our waterways. Carbon dioxide levels in Antarctica reached 400 ppm for the first time in 4 million years, while in Siberia, giant craters up to 100 feet wide that began mysteriously in 2014 have now been attributed to melting permafrost. As the permafrost thaws, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that has 25 times greater impact on the global climate compared with CO2. To preserve our fisheries, communities, and way of life, we must begin acting now to implement large-scale renewable energy projects like Deep Water Wind's.

The science is clear; ocean acidification and climate change pose a substantial threat to marine life, including sea scallops and squid. NOAA lists sea scallops at “high vulnerability” due to ocean acidification. In 2014, a Canadian shell fishing company reported losing 10 million scallops and \$10 million due to ocean acidification<sup>1</sup>. One study on ocean acidification and squid found that over the next 100-200 years, changing pH levels in our oceans will cause squid to take up to an extra 24 hours to hatch and spawn will be smaller, making the species increasingly more vulnerable to predators. Acidification threatens our oceans and new science shows it threatens our estuaries. Studies done by the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University have concluded that our estuaries are becoming more acidic. Estuaries are some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. They are essential as breeding and nursery grounds for a wide variety of finfish, shellfish, bird life and reptiles. Rejecting a viable offshore wind project puts all our marine and avian species, human health, and local economies, which rely on fishing and tourism, at risk.

Additionally, offshore wind farms can be beneficial to the health of local fisheries by creating artificial reefs. Artificial reefs increase food availability and provide shelter to fish and shellfish, improving both the health of local fisheries and the local economy. The infrastructure at the Deep Water Wind project in Block Island has become a hot spot for tourism and recreation thanks to the creation of an artificial reef: we could see the same thing off the coast of Montauk with the south fork project.

Offshore wind farms throughout Asia and Europe are already achieving renewable energy goals and are reducing greenhouse gas emissions while having minimal impacts on wildlife. We may have fallen behind in the movement toward offshore wind, but we have some of the best wind resources in the world right off the coast of Long Island and we now have the opportunity to lead the nation in offshore wind generation. It is critical that the south fork wind farm is done right and sets the example for our region. The Town can act as a crucial voice in that process, ensuring the Deep Water Wind project is well-sited and developed in an environmentally responsible manner to mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

A “no” vote on the Deep Water Wind project would simply be the Town abdicating any responsibility for its own energy needs and refusing its seat at the table as the south fork project moves forward. A “yes” vote demonstrates that the Town is committed to moving away from fossil fuels and willing to work to develop an offshore wind farm that best fits the community’s needs. **This vote is only one step in a long process, and CCE urges the Town of East Hampton to play a positive role and vote “yes” on Deep Water Wind.**

Sincerely,



Adrienne Esposito

Cc: East Hampton Town Board Members and Trustees

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<sup>1</sup> Huffington Post. *10 Million Scallops Dead in BC Waters*. Feb. 26, 2014.  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/02/26/scallops-dead-vancouver-island\\_n\\_4859868.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2014/02/26/scallops-dead-vancouver-island_n_4859868.html)



FRED W. THIELE, JR.  
Assemblyman 1<sup>st</sup> District

CHAIR  
Committee on Small Business

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Ways and Means  
Education  
Environmental Conservation  
Oversight, Analysis and Investigation  
Transportation

May 31, 2018

East Hampton Town Board  
159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, NY 11937

Dear Town Board,

Attached please find a hard copy of my Deepwater Wind Project statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Thiele".

Fred W. Thiele, Jr.  
Member of Assembly

FWT/DM  
Enclosure

**STATEMENT FROM ASSEMBLYMAN FRED W. THIELE, JR. TO  
THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON REGARDING THE DEEPWATER WIND PROJECT**

I am an elected official who has represented the Town of East Hampton in County and State government for nearly 28 years. In addition, I previously served the Town of East Hampton as a counsel for 6 years, advising its planning and zoning boards.

My position on energy issues has been well documented. I have been a major supporter of renewable energy, including solar power and wind power. I have been an opponent of nuclear energy, as well as our continued reliance on fossil fuels. I have also opposed the construction of unsightly, above-ground transmission lines to deliver power to our scenic and historic communities.

The East End has a thriving economy. The protection of our environment and quality of life has been the key to our prosperity. That success has resulted in an increased demand for energy.

At the same time that our energy needs are increasing, we are confronted with the undeniable fact that climate change and sea level rise are real. The 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District has more coastline than any district in the State of New York. We are already facing the adverse impacts of climate change across our region. We must promote both energy conservation and the production of clean energy to reverse climate change.

Therefore, it is imperative that we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels that generate climate-changing greenhouse gases. Long ago, we determined that nuclear power was not a safe option for Long Island as an alternative to fossil fuels.

I opposed the construction of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station and supported its closure because eastern Long Island could not be safely evacuated. I opposed the establishment of the fossil fuel-producing Broadwater Natural Gas manufacturing facility for Long Island Sound. These projects were unjustifiable risks to the environment, public health, public safety, and our local economy. Nuclear power and fossil fuels are not Long Island's energy future.

I have also opposed the construction of ugly, above-ground transmission lines in East Hampton Village, Southampton Town, and Eastport to bring power to the East End. The power is needed, but these above-ground transmission lines are a threat to the scenic vistas and open spaces that East Enders have spent more than a billion dollars to protect. These transmission lines threaten our economy and our environment.

Unfortunately, LIPA and PSEG-LI will not make the investment required to put these transmission lines underground where they belong. As long as we import power from outside the region, we risk further degradation of the aesthetics of our communities by LIPA and PSEG-LI.

Through legislation, capital investment, and my public statements, I have demonstrated support for a clean energy future for eastern Long Island and New York State that is based upon renewable energy, such as wind and solar power. I have also supported producing that energy locally to avoid the need for more above-ground transmission lines to import power to our communities.

The Town of East Hampton has articulated those same energy goals with its town-wide plan for clean energy and energy self-reliance.

Consistent with my vision for our energy future, I have generally supported the goal of the State of New York's REV (Reforming the Energy Vision) for the development of renewable energy, including offshore wind. The State has called for at least 800 megawatts of offshore wind power from existing lease areas and 2,400 megawatts of off shore wind by 2030.

However, I do not support the federal initiative by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) that would expand lease areas beyond what has been outlined by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). These additional areas would pose a threat to the East End environment and economy. New York State's approach better protects the region's resources.

Further, let me also again state my opposition to the federal proposal of drilling for oil or gas off the shores of Long Island. No single idea would undermine our environment and economy more than offshore drilling. It must be rejected now.

The production of energy, from whatever source, comes with risks and potential impacts. When assessing all options, renewable energy, such as offshore wind, presents the best choice.

New York State is not alone in pursuing wind power. Massachusetts and Rhode Island last week announced offshore wind projects which would deliver a combined 1,200 megawatts of energy. Deepwater Wind was one of the selectees for these projects. It is clear that offshore wind is part of our regional and national energy future. New York State, Long Island, and East Hampton Town must play a leadership role. East Hampton Town should benefit from that leadership.

It is in this context that the Town and Town Trustees are considering access for an underground transmission cable across Town and Town Trustee property for a 90 megawatt, 15 turbine wind farm by Deepwater Wind.

While I support the development of offshore wind as part of a responsible energy policy, my support should not be construed as a rubberstamp for every offshore wind project that is proposed. We must look at the merits of each individual project to insure it meets the goals of our energy policy and that the project avoids unacceptable adverse environmental impacts. The public is right to demand the strictest review of this project. Unlike many energy companies, Deepwater Wind has demonstrated a willingness to work with the community as part of the review process.

In particular, I understand the concerns of the commercial fishing industry regarding the Deepwater project. I have worked with the commercial fishing industry to address their legitimate and too-often ignored concerns about federal quotas and state licensing regulations, which have stifled the health of the industry. The Deepwater project will be subject to federal and state review by numerous government agencies, including a full

assessment of environmental impacts. However, review by the state can begin only after the real estate approvals from the Town and Town Trustees. The potential impacts to the fishing industry must be identified, addressed, and avoided. This must be accomplished as part of the state and federal review process before the project can go forward.

I support the approval by the Town Board and Town Trustees of the required access easements so that the full environmental review of this project can begin. It is imperative that local government, local officials, and the public continue to participate in these federal and state reviews to insure that all issues are addressed.

In addition to the issue of access easements, I would also like to address two ancillary issues regarding this project. First, one component of the community benefits package being considered by the Town and Town Trustees is the "\$2 Million Ocean Industries Sustainability Program." I was directly involved in these discussions and wish to explain its genesis.

This proposal came out of a meeting last fall that Senator LaValle and I arranged between the commercial fishing industry and the Commissioner of the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The current state licensing framework was identified at the meeting as a major hindrance to the future health of the industry. The Commissioner committed to a process to develop a licensing reform proposal before the end of 2018, for legislative action in 2019.

It was recognized that the solutions to licensing reform will cost money to develop and implement. At the time of the meeting with the DEC, a community benefits package was already under discussion with the Town and Town Trustees. I was contacted by industry representatives after the meeting. The concept of funding for regulatory reform implementation was identified as a legitimate industry need. Deepwater Wind agreed to provide \$2 million for this program as part of the community benefits package. Deepwater Wind's willingness to participate in this initiative is greatly appreciated.

In my discussions with the Town Supervisor, it was agreed that such work should be undertaken by an independent, not-for-profit entity, with knowledge of the commercial fishing industry, such as Cornell Cooperative Extension, to insure its integrity and independence. The specifics of this program must still be developed. The independent, not-for-profit entity should be approved by the Town. The commercial fishing industry must be involved in all aspects of its creation, implementation, and administration.

The second item of my concern is LIPA's ill-considered policy of denying public access to all of its third-party agreements under the guise of confidentiality, including the Deepwater agreement. There is no legitimate basis for this policy. The public, who pays for the production of power, has every right to review these agreements. Conclusionary statements are not acceptable. LIPA should make the agreement public now.



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Kathy Wisniewski, *National Grid*  
Andrew Zucaro, *Zucaro Construction*

May 17, 2018

Town of East Hampton  
159 Pantigo Road  
East Hampton, NY 11937

Dear Members of the Town Board:

Vision Long Island would like to show our support for the construction of the South Fork Wind Farm as it will add to the diversity of clean and renewable energy options for Long Island. It will help to offset the energy produced by many of the older and less efficient fossil fuel plants that exist in many parts of the island. These fossil fuel fired plants are subject to fluctuations in fuel prices as well as pollutants of our atmosphere.

The wind farm is proposed to be thirty miles off shore and not visible from the shoreline. The site was chosen in a multi-year process that factored in locations of fishing, shipping and other environmental concerns to minimize any potential adverse effects. While any energy generation has potential effects, this form of generation and this site has been chosen to minimize them.

Deepwater Wind has been working with the community for several years to develop a community benefits package that provides approximately \$8.5 million towards local water infrastructure, sustainable ocean industries and other related issues. These are substantial benefits in exchange for an easement to run the cable underground.

Vision Long Island urges the Town of East Hampton to approve the easement for the underground cable in order to allow the process to move forward.

Sincerely,

Eric Alexander, Director