



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

MAY 18 2021

The Honorable Deborah K. Ross
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ross:

Thank you for your April 8, 2021, letter regarding renewable energy development offshore North Carolina, specifically the Wilmington East and West Wind Energy Areas (WEA). The Biden administration is committed to promoting clean and safe development of the Nation's vast renewable energy resources as stated in Executive Order 14008 of January 27, 2021, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*.

The U.S. offshore wind industry has experienced tremendous growth in the last few years, highlighted by increasing State interest to procure offshore wind energy along with decreasing prices worldwide for this energy source. Recognizing the interest in wind leasing offshore North Carolina, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently undertaking activities to move forward with a wind lease sale offshore North Carolina. The Biden administration is also working diligently to address the previous administration's moratoria on all offshore energy development in portions of the Atlantic. We are committed to continuing the process for facilitating the development of wind projects offshore the United States.

I am happy to discuss renewable energy activities offshore North Carolina with you. We value your engagement and look forward to your continued participation as our collaborative process proceeds. To schedule a meeting or if you have additional questions or comments, please contact Mitch Hoskins, BOEM Office of Congressional Affairs, at (202) 304-2348 or mitchell.hoskins@boem.gov. A similar response is being sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

Amanda Lefton
Director