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(Barnstable)

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Sallie Tighe

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Susan Warner

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Michaela Wyman-

Colombo

(Mashpee)

Clerk of the Assembly

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CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMPLEX

OLD JAIL BUILDING

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August 30, 2024

Secretary Deb Halaand,
US Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
849 C Street, N.W., MS-4106
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Halaand,

On behalf of the Cape Cod Regional Government Assembly of Delegates, the legislative branch of Barnstable County Government representing 15 towns, we submit the following letter for your careful consideration and response.

We support responsible solutions to climate change and are committed to the transition to a clean energy environment. However, the scope of the proposal to site 10 GW of offshore wind turbines, or approximately 1,000 wind turbines, off the ocean beaches and nearshore uplands of Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) could have a very material impact on the environment, the way of life and economy on Cape Cod, and all national parks throughout the United States. We also have concerns regarding the recent wind turbine blade broken in the Vineyard Wind development and debris washing up on the beaches of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod, and in the ocean waters. The far-reaching impacts of this over 350-foot wind turbine blade are only now being assessed.

The Assembly of Delegates, as elected officials, are members of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Gulf of Maine Offshore Wind Task Force and should have been informed of our role as far back as 2019. As we were not included in the earlier discussions, we ask you to stop the process from moving to the next steps and instead implement a hard reset of the clock to the 2019 planning stages, thus giving all elected officials in Barnstable County the chance to serve as Task Force members. It would then allow us to hold meetings with robust public participation.

If this is not done, we are concerned that our iconic Cape Cod National Seashore, our economy and our way of life could be adversely impacted.

Sincerely,

Patrick Princi, Speaker

Barnstable County Assembly Delegates

cc: President Joseph Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Senator Edward Markey,
Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congressman William Keating