

NROC Letters of Support

Theresa Mitchell Barbo
Journalist and Maritime Author
Massachusetts

Blue H
Ray Dackerman, General Manager
Massachusetts

Friends of Casco Bay
Michael Doan, Research Associate
Maine

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA
Rebecca Carter, Adaptation Manager
Massachusetts

Maine Geological Survey
Stephen M. Dickson, State Marine Geologist
Maine

Maine Lobstermen's Association, Inc.
Patrice McCarron, Executive Director
Maine

Maine Marine Research Coalition
Peter A. Jumars, Chair
Maine

Marine Resources, Department of
Linda Mercer, Director
Maine

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Paul Diodati, Director
Massachusetts

NationalGrid
Alexander G. Taft, Director
Massachusetts

Portsmouth, City of
John P. Bohenko, City Manager
New Hampshire

Principle Power, Inc.
Alla Weinstein, President/CEO
Washington

Rockingham Planning Commission
Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director
New Hampshire

Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission
Jonathan Lockman, Planning Director
Maine

The Nature Conservancy
Sally Yozell
Director of Marine Conservation

U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative
Fara Courtney
Massachusetts

York, Town of
Stephen H. Burns, CD Director
Maine

May 8, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and Gulf of Maine (GoME) Council

Dear Ms. Leyden,

As an independent scholar, maritime author, and member of an ESIP subcommittee of the Gulf of Maine Council, I wish to convey my unconditional support for the February 17, 2009, New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to promote marine ecosystem health in New England.

What is New England without its core identity which is derived the ocean? From literature, to contemporary tourism, American commercial marine traffic, cultural norms and historical preservation--those are merely only a few undying ways and traditions in which the Northeastern United States is irretrievably tied to its seas. We have a duty to honor the traditions of the seas, and a responsibility to forge a healthy future for our corner of the Western North Atlantic, by procuring funds which will enable smart, dedicated people in marine science and policy to do their jobs well.

More than ever before, the proposed federal assistance, this government investment in New England's marine watersheds, will for the first time lead to creating a framework that addresses conflicting uses of the ocean; cumulative health issues, not only for humans, but for the dynamic waters, too; and assist with adapting to sea level rise and changes in our global climate. Especially important is that the Gulf of Maine continues to be treated as a single entity instead of a series of distinct states sharing watery borders. Considering the whole region and its future and present needs are critical to our regional responsibilities as stewards of this immense watershed, and the waters of the Gulf of Maine.

I am no one special. I hold no high government rank or influential position in a non-profit institution. And I am not a scientist. I am, however, someone who has dedicated her best working years to maritime history, and contemporary marine policy: I was a member of the No Discharge Area Team whose work led to the EPA declaring Cape Cod Bay a No Discharge Area. Indeed, the question ahead of you, if I may humbly suggest, is not whether you will support this measure, but rather, how could you not?

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Mitchell Barbo, M.A.
Journalist and Maritime Author
Yarmouth Port, Cape Cod, Massachusetts



February 18, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station # 38
Augusta, Maine 043331

Dear Ms. Leyden:

Following up on your helpful correspondences over the past two months, Blue H USA is strongly in favor of the February 17, 2009, New England Governor's request for federal support to accelerate the planning, permitting, and operation of renewable and traditional energy projects in New England.

Blue H USA LLC is a company based in Boston, Massachusetts with shareholders from each region of the United States. Blue H Group Technologies Ltd is a UK registered holding company with its global management and operations through Blue H Technologies BV, a Dutch private limited liability company. Blue H USA LLC is the exclusive site development company representing Blue H Technologies BV in the United States. By utilizing proprietary deepwater wind energy technology of Blue H Technologies BV and its affiliates, Blue H USA LLC intends to become one of the United States' leading developers of deepwater offshore wind farms.

In December of 2007, Blue H launched the world's first floating wind turbine off the coast of southern Italy. This prototype wind turbine was installed 11.5 nautical miles off the southern Italian coast in deepwater (371 ft) in the summer of 2008. Currently, Blue H is manufacturing its first commercial floating wind turbine which is scheduled for installation in 2009 off Italy's southern region of Puglia in the Adriatic Sea as the first wind turbine in a 90MW wind farm.

On March 12, 2008, Blue H USA LLC submitted a Nomination For Lease with the US Minerals Management Service (MMS) to install what it anticipates to be the first floating deepwater wind energy unit in North America. The technology testing facility, named 'Belinda' consists of a floating structure supporting a non-operational 3.5 MW wind turbine consistent with MMS guidelines. The purpose of Project Belinda is threefold:

- Launch the deepwater wind energy industry in the United States by fully using US facilities for the construction, commissioning, and decommissioning of Blue H's patented wind energy structure.



- Test the floating platform technology in actual oceanographic conditions in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Collect site-specific resource data and information.

Following demonstration of the efficacy of its technology, Blue H USA intends to proceed with seeking permits for a full scale commercial deep water wind energy project in a 40 square mile area which will:

- consist of 120 turbines
- generate 420 MW
- be located 23 miles from Martha's Vineyard
- be located 48 miles from New Bedford
- be in a water depth of 51 meters (167 ft).

This Nomination For Lease, which Blue H USA believes has important implications for the establishment of the deepwater wind energy sector in the United States, is unfortunately still pending review by the US Minerals Management Service.

In conjunction with its Belinda Project, Blue H USA is vigorously pursuing development opportunities in the state of Maine. On August 9, 2008, Blue H USA announced during an interview with the Bangor Daily News that it is pursuing an appropriate site in Maine for the establishment of a deepwater wind energy farm. Maine, with an excellent deepwater wind energy resource off its coastlines, is a focal point for Blue H USA project development.

On January 14, 2009, Blue H announced *Project Deepwater Turbine*, a consortium led by Blue H including BAE Systems, EDF Energy, CEFAS, SLP Energy and Romax, which has been selected by the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) as one of the first projects to receive funds as part of its £1.1 billion initiative. This UK based project aims at developing an integrated solution for a 5MW floating turbine deployed offshore in waters between 30 and 300 meters deep.

In line with the Obama Administrations' goals for energy security and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable ocean energy development is a top priority for New England. Energy price stability, significant job and support industry creation, and air quality improvements are



among the considerable benefits of pursuing renewable ocean energy development in New England.

Blue H has learned firsthand from its ongoing projects overseas that considerable information and local experience is acquired through pilot project implementation and full-scale project planning. The information gathered during the pilot projects will be invaluable in determining the appropriate balances between renewable ocean energy development with existing and traditional uses of the marine environment. In addition, the Governors' Northeast Regional Office will bring together public, for profit and non-profit interests to pursue ways to accelerate renewable energy development.

On behalf of Blue H USA, I kindly request that you heavily support this most important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond A. Dackerman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ray Dackerman
General Manager
Blue H USA LLC

May 7, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine state Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Ms. Leyden:

Friends of Casco Bay is pleased to support the February 17, 2009 request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC). These funds would facilitate improved decision-making about marine ecosystem health throughout the Gulf of Maine.

Friends of Casco Bay is a marine stewardship organization founded in 1989 to improve and protect the environmental health of Casco Bay. Home to the Casco BAYKEEPER®, we are a founding member of the WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE, a network of more than 170 environmental groups working to protect waters across the globe. We are recognized for our "work-with" approach in seeking effective solutions to problems that threaten the health of our coastal waters by forging collaborations among diverse groups using an ethic that balances economic vitality with environmental health.

We address critical threats to Casco Bay's ecosystem through advocacy, education, stewardship activities, and innovative programs including our award-winning water quality monitoring program. We have collected over 240,000 data points on water quality in Casco Bay over the past 14 years. Many of these data points will be included in the indicator dataset for eutrophication through the Ecosystem Indicator Partnership (ESIP). ESIP will encourage consistent methodologies for the collection and interpretation of data, allowing for more effective comparison of data and better understanding of regional trends. The indicators will provide a broad, regional look at ecosystem health while producing much stronger tools for local management and planners.

Friends of Casco Bay strongly supports the New England Governors' Conference request. Please feel free to contact me should there be any questions.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Doan
Research Associate
Friends of Casco Bay
43 Slocum Drive
South Portland, ME 04106
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mdoan@cascobay.org
www.cascobay.org

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May 20, 2009



Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Ms. Leyden:

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA, Inc. (ICLEI USA), a membership association of local governments committed to climate protection and sustainable development, is pleased to support the February 17, 2009 New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds to support the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).

ICLEI USA is the only national membership association of local governments committed solely to climate protection and sustainable development. As such, ICLEI works with local governments from around the U.S. to not only reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), but to also increase their resiliency to forecasted climate changes (adaptation). ICLEI's Climate Resilient Communities program assists local governments with a comprehensive adaptation process, including assessing their vulnerabilities and identifying strategies to increase their resilience. The work of key partners such as NROC will help to ensure that ICLEI's local government members have access to the most up to-date and reliable climate information, thereby improving their ability to make informed decisions about how to protect their communities from sea-level rise, storm surge, and other oceanic impacts.

For the past year and a half, ICLEI USA staff has worked with representatives from the Northeast Ocean Council to share best practices and lessons learned. From these interactions, it has become critically evident that a strong need still exists to provide more detailed information, such as:

- High resolution LiDAR data that can be used to help make local decisions about coastal systems;
- A better system for sharing best practices around sea-level rise adaptation strategies; and
- Clear communication information about the vulnerabilities to coastal communities in New England that can be shared with the public and key decisions makers.

Given ICLEI USA's previous work with both the New England Governor's Conference and NROC, and the alignment of our collective missions, ICLEI USA is delighted to endorse the New England Governor's Conference request for funding to advance marine ecosystem health.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Carter – Adaptation Manager
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA, Inc.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability U.S.A., Inc.
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Southeast – Atlanta
South Central – New Orleans
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Pacific Northwest/Islands – Seattle
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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
22 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0022

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

PATRICK K. MCGOWAN
COMMISSIONER

February 19, 2009

Ms. Kathleen Leyden
NROC Chair
Maine State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038

Dear Ms. Leyden:

RE: U.S. Northeast Regional Ocean Council Action Plan - Coastal Hazards and Seafloor Mapping for Community Resiliency

Through initiatives at the Maine Geological Survey in the last two decades, Maine has led the nation in planning for higher sea levels and increased storm hazards due to the effects of climate change. We have been at the forefront of state beach policy that anticipates a 2-foot rise in sea level over the next 100 years. MGS has mapped potential sea-level rise inundation to identify vulnerable natural and anthropogenic coastal features. This work provides the scientific basis for assessing risk and developing community resiliency in southern Maine in response to accelerated erosion and flooding.

Current trends in global sea level rise - showing a 50% acceleration in the rate of sea-level rise in the last 15 years compared to the 20th century - indicates that there is precious little time to systematically prepare for increased coastal hazards. Experience has shown us that it takes several years to collect data (such as seafloor bathymetry or coastal topography), generate existing and potential future hazard assessments, and then assist governing agencies and communities in developing appropriate resiliency action plans. In our opinion, there is no time to delay in preparing the foundation for coastal hazards assessments so that communities along the coast can begin to take effective actions sooner rather than later in response to sea level rise. Timely funding by the U.S. Congress for the NROC's request will provide for required regional coordination and expedited planning to further develop resiliency in northeast communities with similar coastal characteristics and hazards.

The Maine Geological Survey strongly supports the New England Governors' request for Congressional Assistance and their resolution concerning Climate Change Adaptation. Funding can be quickly and effectively put to use throughout the northeast states to address objectives clearly identified in the Coast and Ocean Action Plan and lead to tangible efforts to reduce existing coastal hazards and those anticipated from climate change in the coming century. If I can be of further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me (207-287-7174; stephen.m.dickson@maine.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephen M. Dickson'.

Stephen M. Dickson, Ph.D.
State Marine Geologist

cc: R. G. Marvinney, Maine State Geologist
D. Keeley, The Keeley Group



MAINE
Lobstermen's Association, Inc.
21 Western Avenue, Suite 1 • Kennebunk, ME 04043
Phone: 207-967-4555 • Fax: 866-407-3770
www.maine lobstermen.org

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, ME 04333

May 8, 2009

Dear Ms. Leyden:

It is with great enthusiasm that the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA) submits this letter in support of the New England Governor's Conference request of \$6 million in federal funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to promote marine ecosystem health in the New England. The MLA is an industry-based fishing organization representing the interests of 1200 lobstermen and industry stakeholders along the Maine coast.

Maine's fishing industry includes 11,000 commercially licensed fishermen supporting nearly 40,000 jobs. In 2008, Maine's 5,800 commercial lobstermen landed more than 67 million pounds of product valued at over \$235 million. The contribution of the lobster industry alone to Maine's economy is estimated to be nearly \$1 billion.

The MLA strongly supports NROC's coordinated and collaborative approach to ocean issues, and appreciates the need to fund the priority ocean issues identified by the states. The NROC correctly identifies the need to invest in strengthening planning and decision-making, effective governance structures, an ecosystem approach and critical issues such as sea level rise, climate change and energy needs.

The MLA strongly supports this funding request which will help support all who are dependent upon healthy and well-managed ocean resources for their livelihoods.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Patrice McCarron
Executive Director



Maine Marine Research Coalition

c/o Peter A. Jumars, Chair
Darling Marine Center
193 Clark's Cove Road
Walpole, ME 04573

22 May 2009

Ms. Kathleen Leyden, Co-Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o State House Station #38
Augusta Maine 04333

Dear Ms. Leyden:

The Maine Marine Research Coalition (MMRC) supports the 17 February 2009 New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to promote marine ecosystem health in New England. The MMRC notes abundant and well documented need for such promotion in the findings of both the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

The MMRC is an inclusive organization of marine research institutions in Maine, including for-profit, nonprofit, public and private research institutions. It was created to have a coordinated voice for Maine marine research in Augusta and to optimize application of broadly distributed marine research talent to pressing marine issues in Maine. The MMRC seeks to enhance economic returns, preserve ecosystem services and advance human well-being in its intersection with marine environments and products. In 2009 the MMRC suspended its regular schedule of bimonthly meetings in order to encourage its members to engage as fully as possible in the work of the Governor's Ocean Energy Task Force. In the MMRC's collective opinion, development of ocean energy has some of the biggest potential gains and risks of any human activity that impinges on Maine's marine waters.

Preparation for accelerated ocean energy production has highlighted the need for environmental characterization that permits optimization of location of diverse marine activities, from power generation to aquaculture. The challenges are greatly increased by complex patterns of climate change. The MMRC therefore encourages the full portfolio of measures outlined in the request. Particularly consonant with MMRC interests are the effort to commence implementation of the 2009 Regional Ocean Science Plan that focuses on climate change, human health and human activities as they relate to the ocean; coastal resiliency; and management and governance, but we also emphasize the need for (current lack of) high-resolution seafloor mapping in Maine in particular and strongly endorse the measures to improve decision making about ocean ecosystem health.

Maine coastal currents become New Hampshire and Massachusetts coastal currents. Recent research shows that they are far better at turning the corner around Cape Cod than was previously thought. The coastal region represented by NROC is connected, and the full region will gain the benefit of early warning of upstream changes in Maine. We thus strongly support NROC bringing together a variety of stakeholders across our region to promote effective management at all levels, from the national trade-offs between coal and wind energy to more local marine concerns. The MMRC supports the New England Governor's Conference request and thanks you in advance for your continued support of the research needed to make informed decisions about important regional marine and coastal resources.

Sincerely yours,


Peter A. Jumars
Chair, Maine Marine Research Coalition



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
MARINE RESOURCES
MARINE RESOURCES LABORATORY
P.O. BOX 8, 194 MCKOWN POINT RD
W. BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE 04575-0008

GEORGE D. LAPOINTE
COMMISSIONER

May 1, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Co-chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Ms. Leyden:

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Department of Marine Resource (DMR) in support of the February 17, 2009 request by the New England Governors' Conference for \$6,090,000 in federal funds to address some of the region's more pressing ocean and coastal issues.

As Director of the Bureau of Resource Management, I oversee scientific research and monitoring programs to conserve, restore, and manage the marine and estuarine resources of the State of Maine. Seafloor mapping is a critical need for many of our programs. We currently conduct a multispecies survey twice a year along the Maine and New Hampshire coast, as well as species-specific surveys for lobster, green sea urchin, sea scallop, and sea cucumber. Seafloor mapping is critically to delineate the habitats of these species, develop and improve spatial models to assess the health of these species, and inform spatial management that is, for example, currently underway for our sea scallop fishery. I am a member of the steering committee for the Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative that represents multiple state, federal, and international jurisdictions around the Gulf of Maine, whose purpose is to broaden the base of support for seafloor and habitat mapping of the Gulf of Maine.

The Governors' request for federal support will, among other things, produce seafloor maps essential to marine resource and habitat management, ocean energy siting, and creation of shoreline elevation maps needed by coastal communities to adapt to rising sea levels. These investments will better position the region to respond to the challenges it is facing. Productive habitats for commercially and ecologically valuable species are located throughout the coastal zone. Development projects, such as aquaculture, wind farms, pipeline and cable installations, dock and pier construction, sewage outfalls, and dredge disposal, can disrupt and degrade the habitat functions and values of the marine environment. Benthic habitat maps are a vital tool to allow managers to visualize the distribution, diversity and extent of marine communities under their jurisdiction, and thus enable them to minimize impacts while allowing wise use of our coastal and ocean waters.

In closing, I'd like to emphasize the need for the state and the region to improve our mapping capability for use in ocean management planning and to improve management of our valuable marine resources.

Sincerely,

Linda P. Mercer, Director



Paul J. Diodati
Director

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

(617)626-1520
fax (617)626-1509



Deval Patrick
Governor

Ian A. Bowles
Secretary

Mary B. Griffin
Commissioner

May 11, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Co-chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
C/O State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Ms. Leyden:

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries supports the February 17, 2009 request by the New England Governors' Conference for \$6,090,000 in federal funds to address some of the region's more pressing ocean and coastal issues.

Marine Fisheries is responsible for the management of marine fisheries resources and habitats in Massachusetts. This is a complex, multi-disciplinary field, and we are in need of improved information and analysis for even basic ocean parameters such as temperature, salinity, and seafloor types. We have been monitoring fisheries activity and resources for more than 100 years. We are currently at an exciting technological threshold, with significant new opportunities now available to map seafloor and water column dynamics. We anticipate that these capabilities will dramatically improve our ability to examine and manage the impact of human activities on the ecosystem.

The Governors' request for federal support will, among other things, produce seafloor maps essential to renewable ocean energy siting and create shoreline elevation maps that coastal communities need to adapt to rising sea levels. These investments will leverage local and state funds and better position us to respond to the challenges facing our region.

In closing I urge your careful consideration of the Governors' request.

Sincerely,

Paul Diodati
Director



Via Email

May 22, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Acting on economic and ocean management issues in the northeast U.S.

Dear Ms. Leyden:

National Grid supports the February 17, 2009 New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC). We are particularly interested in the mapping efforts that will have multiple uses including supporting climate change adaptation studies regarding sea level rise as well as those programs that will help evaluate renewable energy opportunities. As an active member in several New England Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership chapters we also recognize the added value these studies will bring in the areas of ocean and coastal ecosystem health.

National Grid is an international electricity and gas company delivering energy to millions of customers across Great Britain and the northeastern United States, with gas and electric transmission and distribution operations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. By customer count, we are the second largest utility in the United States, serving 3.3 million electric customers and 3.5 million natural gas customers. National Grid recognizes the implications of climate change and while making plans to adapt has also committed to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

National Grid is actively participating on a number of adaptation task forces including the New York City Climate Change Adaptation Energy Working Group, the New York State Sea Level Rise Energy Working Group and the New York State Climate Change Adaptation Energy Working group managed by NYSERDA. In addition we were recently asked to serve on the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Committee. In the United Kingdom we have been working closely with the Met Office Hadley Centre on climate change adaptation matters since 2006.

From this experience it is quite clear that in order to plan/adapt to sea level rise concerns accurate and up to date mapping information is imperative. The mapping programs being proposed will be critical for the assessment of rising sea levels that have been predicted as a result of climate change. This information will help us to evaluate the vulnerabilities of our existing energy infrastructure as well as better design new infrastructure. While at the same time it will be beneficial for regional marine assessments.

National Grid encourages support for the New England Governor's Conference request. If you have any questions regarding our views or experience in this area, please feel free to contact me by email at sandy.taft@us.ngrid.com or by telephone at 781 907 3640.

Sincerely,



Alexander G. Taft
Director US Climate Change Policy

Cc: S. Blazewicz, National Grid
J. Newman, National Grid
E. White, National Grid



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Hall, One Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801
(603) 610-7201 Fax (603) 427-1526

John P. Bohenko
City Manager

May 20, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333
c/o Lorraine Lessard

Dear Ms. Leyden:

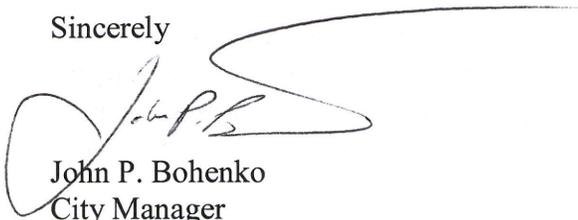
This letter is in reference to the New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) to enhance coastal management throughout New England. The City of Portsmouth and other coastal communities will benefit from these funds as they will provide \$1,200,000 worth of benefit for local adaptation to climate change and sea level rise.

The specific area of support, of interest to the City of Portsmouth, is community adaptation to climate change and sea level rise. These funds will provide better data upon which to base decision making at the local level. The funding proposed will enable the City to utilize improved elevation data to enhance our understanding of the breadth of the challenges which lie ahead for sea level rise and assist in coming up with sound policy recommendations towards climate change adaptation.

The New England Governors' Conference appropriations will constitute an important step forward as we continue to develop an understanding of climate change impacts in our region. Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for your continued support of resources that will enable communities to adapt to climate change.

If you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact Peter Britz, Environmental Planner/Sustainability Coordinator for the City at (603) 610-7215 or plbritz@cityofportsmouth.com.

Sincerely



John P. Bohenko
City Manager



February 17, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station # 38
Augusta, Maine 04333l

Dear Chairwoman Leyden,

The New England Governors created the U.S. Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to coordinate a collaborative approach to ocean issues extending from the Gulf of Maine to Long Island Sound. Principle Power, Inc. is in favor of the NROC regional Action Plan and the Governors' plan for federal funding that would strengthen New England's response to renewable energy activities.

Principle Power Inc. is the developer of the WindFloat -- a floating semi-submersible foundation for offshore wind turbines that enables cost-effective wind installations in deepwater using 5 MW+ turbines. As the parent company of WindFloat Maine, Principle Power aims to harness superior offshore wind resources in commercial floating deepwater offshore wind farms. Principle Power's proposed WindFloat Maine Demonstration Project would benefit from the collaborative efforts of NROC and their regional clean energy planning.

It has been estimated that for every GW of installed offshore wind, 1000 to 2000 jobs will be created. The economic impact of the projected offshore wind industry for Maine is estimated to be over \$5 billion per year. The WindFloat Demonstration Project will bring an estimated \$30+million in research and development activities, manufacturing, and marine technology jobs to Maine. In Maine, offshore wind resources exceed on-land wind energy due to less sheer and greater capacity. Resource maps show that strong Class 6 winds off the coast of Maine provide over 100GW of outstanding wind potential in water depths >180 feet.

The New England Governors' NROC includes public and private collaboration to accelerate renewable energy development. Principle Power appreciates the commitment of NROC and favors the Governors' work toward sustainable development of New England's ocean energy resources.

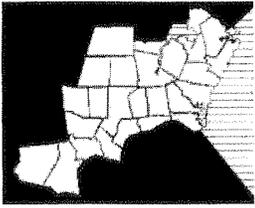
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Weinstein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alla Weinstein
President and CEO



seattle 425 430 7924
san francisco 415 816 2924
www.powerbyprinciple.com



Rockingham Planning Commission

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June 4, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) appropriation request for adaptation planning

Dear Ms. Leyden:

I am writing to let you know that the Rockingham Planning Commission strongly supports the New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) to support regional coastal management initiatives. In particular, the funding requested to assist coastal communities adapt to climate change and respond to increased risk from coastal storms and flooding, is especially urgent at this juncture.

Over the past year we have been working closely with one of our coastal communities, the Town of Seabrook, on a small pilot project intended to help the Town identify land areas that will be exposed to increased risk from inundation due to sea level rise, and to develop strategies to mitigate present and future impacts to properties, infrastructure and resources. We hope to disseminate the results of this work to the other coastal communities in our region. While Seabrook tries to be proactive in their response, as do we, such local efforts are hampered by a critical lack of accurate elevation data for the coastal area. The best elevation resolution we are able to produce with existing data has 5 foot elevation contours – wholly within the IPCC's 2007 stated range of predicted sea level rise by 2100 – and thus is inadequate as the basis for what will likely be controversial but necessary changes in local land use policy. The kind of information and assistance this funding would support, such as the development of higher resolution elevation data in tidal areas, is vitally important to fill information gaps and to provide the necessary tools to enable local governments to respond to these threats proactively.

Much work lies ahead to help coastal communities adequately prepare to the consequences of climate change and sea level rise. Most fundamentally we need sound, scientifically based information to support action. We urge support for the NROC appropriation as requested by the New England Governor's Conference.

Sincerely,

Cliff Sinnott
Executive Director

cc: Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Governor John Lynch
Theodore Tocci, Chairman, Rockingham Planning Commission
Sue Foote, Chair, Seabrook Planning Board

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The Council of Governments
Serving the Municipalities of
Southwestern Maine

15 May 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair, Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Kathleen:

The Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission supports the New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) to advance coastal management in the New England region. We particularly endorse the \$1,200,000 requested to assist coastal communities with adaptation to climate change and sea level rise. The SMRPC has identified immediate needs for the communities along the coast from Kittery to Scarborough, to adapt to changes in sea level that are already starting to occur.

This possible funding may offer us the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive set of accurate elevation data, using laser imaging (LiDAR), for coastal New Hampshire and Maine. Since the spring of 2008, the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission has partnered with the Maine Geological Survey, with funding from the Maine Coastal Program, on the Coastal Hazards Resiliency Tools Project. The existing narrow swath of accurate LiDAR elevation data has gotten our project off to an excellent start, but so much more could be accomplished, with full coverage of our service area.

The SMRPC sees its mission has providing guidance and technical assistance to coastal and inland municipalities, particularly by enhancing and revamping their regulatory schemes, to deal with more frequent and severe flooding associated with climate change and sea level rise. In Maine, the DEP Minimum Shoreland Zoning Guidelines and the SPO Floodplain Management Program, are each relied upon to provide municipalities with a minimum level regulatory framework. In each program, municipalities are mandated to adopt ordinances that are largely written out for them, with a variety of minimum standards. The geography used to regulate floodplain comes FEMA flood insurance rate maps, which utilize 30+ year old analog technology. Of course, under Maine law, towns and cities have the "home rule" authority to enact stricter regulations. Some do, but the mandated minimums provide the basic backstop for the whole system.

It has been the experience in the recent Mother's Day and Patriot's Day storms, both in York and Old Orchard Beach, that the minimum regulatory scheme as envisioned and promoted by FEMA, SPO and DEP is not accurate enough at predicting flood heights or the geographic extent of inundation, giving overall rising tide levels. LiDAR elevation data can be used to assign new locations of locally designated flood plain, far more realistic than maps derived by older methods.

The Coastal Hazard Resiliency Project has begun to assist a handful of coastal towns, in those areas about 1500 feet from the ocean coast, analyze the newest predictions of flood heights, and display where the new floodplain will probably be. Hopefully, the result will be new, locally-designated floodplains based upon LiDAR data, with increased freeboard requirements, for post-flood reconstruction in currently developed areas. With full LiDAR coverage for the entire watershed areas proposed, we will be able to build upon these current pilot projects, and bring more accurate flood prediction west to Route 1, and beyond.

We appreciate the support of the New England Governors' Conference to provide resources that will enable our communities to adapt to climate change. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan T. Lockman AICP, Planning Director

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February 20, 2009

Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Ms. Leyden:

The Nature Conservancy supports the February 17, 2009 New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to promote marine ecosystem health in New England.

The Nature Conservancy (The Conservancy) is an international non-profit dedicated to protecting ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. Our success in protecting over 117 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide and operating over 125 marine conservation projects globally has depended on our ability to use a science-based approach to pursue pragmatic solutions with our partners in all levels of government and the private sector. The Conservancy has operating Chapters in every state in New England and participates as an active partner in the Northeast Regional Ocean Council process.

The Conservancy is developing a regional marine assessment of the NW Atlantic Ocean which begins at the coast and extends out to the continental shelf. The goal is to bring together biological, physical and human use data to support informed decision-making about natural resources and related tradeoffs particularly as it relates to marine spatial planning activities in our region.

The Conservancy supports NROC because its work complements our conservation mission and recognizes the importance of ocean and coastal ecosystem health as critical to the long-term economic sustainability of our region. Further, NROC has demonstrated a willingness to reach across federal and state boundaries and programs in an effort to begin to manage shared marine resources from an ecosystem basis. NROC recognizes that in order to be successful, it makes sense to conduct ecosystem monitoring, data collection and data integration at a regional scale, and to make this information accessible across all levels of government. We support its efforts to better manage ocean and coastal resources by regionally integrating important information about the health of the ecosystem.

NROC serves to bring together a variety of stakeholders across our region and truly promotes effective ecosystem-based management at all levels. The Nature Conservancy encourages support for the New England Governor's Conference request, and thanks you in advance for your continued support of our important regional marine and coastal resources.

Sincerely,


Sally Yozell
Director of Marine Conservation
Eastern U.S. Region



US Offshore Wind Collaborative

12 May 2009

Ms. Kathleen Leyden
NROC Chair
Maine State Planning Office
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038

Dear Ms. Leyden:

The US Offshore Wind Collaborative (USOWC) endorses the February 17, 2009 New England Governors' Conference request for funds for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) to support regional data collection and planning for offshore renewable energy siting.

USOWC is a forum for states, academic institutions, clean energy advocates, industry and environmental interests to jointly address the technical, policy, environmental and economic issues necessary to catalyze the sustainable development of wind energy resources in the oceans and Great lakes of the United States.

The offshore wind industry in the United States is emerging at the intersection of two important public policy imperatives: improving ocean management strategies and mitigating, while adapting to, climate change. Particularly in the densely populated Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions, offshore wind is the primary commercially-exploitable renewable energy resource available to reduce dependence on fossil fuel and associated environmental impacts.

Individual states are taking assertive action to plan for, support and attract wind development in state and adjacent federal waters by engaging in ocean planning, with renewable energy as a centerpiece-issue, and partnering with developers to responsibly site projects. There are multiple physical and ecological data layers necessary to inform offshore wind siting decisions on, which are more appropriately collected and better understood on a regional, rather than a project-specific - or even state-by-state - scale. The use of data collected with public support, and maintained in the public domain, has been an important contributor to growth of the offshore wind industry in the European Union.

NROC is providing an important coordination function among the northeast states and federal partners as the region works towards a less fragmented, more efficient ocean management framework. We look forward to continued cooperative engagement with public and private sector interests as we act on our shared commitment to mitigating climate change through sustainable offshore renewable energy development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fara Courtney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Fara Courtney, *Launch Director*
USOWC

US Offshore Wind Collaborative Steering Committee:

Laurie Jodziewicz, American Wind Energy Association
Mark Sinclair, Clean Energy States Alliance
John Hummer, Great Lakes Wind Collaborative
Jack Clarke, Mass Audubon
Greg Watson, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environment
Steve Connors, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nils Bolgen, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
John Rogers, Union of Concerned Scientists



Town of York

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June 1, 2009

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Kathleen Leyden, Chair
Northeast Regional Ocean Council
c/o Maine State Planning Office
State House Station #38
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Kathleen,

I write with regard to the New England Governors' Conference request of \$6,090,000 in federal funds for the Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) to promote coastal management throughout New England. Coastal communities will particularly benefit from the \$1,200,000 requested to support local adaptation to climate change and sea level rise.

Sea level rise poses a significant risk to properties and the economies of communities along the ocean such as York. The Natural Resources Chapter of York's Comprehensive Plan has one section dedicated to this issue. It flags issues such as higher flood levels, loss of salt marsh, increased shoreline erosion, and increased exposure of public infrastructure to storm damage, and recommends hazard mitigation planning and revisions of the Town's emergency management programs to get ahead of this issue. The scope of issues which need to be addressed is probably more than any one community is likely to fund, so a regional approach makes perfect sense. York has acquired its own 2' contour data (at a total cost in excess of \$100,000 just for York), so acquisition of LiDAR data may have limited immediate value to York. However, availability of LiDAR elevation data for the entire series of coastal watersheds greatly increases the likelihood of regional efforts to address the substantive issues we have already flagged.

I believe this proposal will help our region to better cope with projected sea level rise, and will advance the policies of our Town's Comprehensive Plan. Because this supports the adopted policies of the Town of York, I support this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Burns
Community Development Director

