

19 W. Hargett St., Ste. 214  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Governor Cooper,

On behalf of the 50 organizations, businesses and individuals signed below, we urge you to take the steps that will enable North Carolina to capture the immense wind energy resource off our shores.

Climate change poses an urgent threat to coastal and low-lying communities, particularly in North Carolina. The risk that sea level rise and storm surges pose to North Carolina's thriving coastal economy and ecosystem highlights the urgent need for investments in clean, carbon-free energy sources. Our coastline is lined with beaches visited by 11.6 million people annually, national wildlife refuges, parks and sensitive marshes and bays. They support a vibrant fishing and tourism industry.

North Carolina has more offshore wind potential than any Atlantic state. The winds off North Carolina's coast powered the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903, and they've been going strong ever since. In fact, just over 100 years after the first flight, converting just a fraction of the winds off our shores to energy could provide all of North Carolina's energy needs. The stage is set for development of offshore wind resources. In March 2017, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) leased 122,405 ocean acres off of the Kitty Hawk shore to Avangrid Renewables, in the second highest offshore wind auction to date. This is a step in the right direction but further state-level action is needed to incentivize the development of this clean energy source. Moving forward, North Carolina's policies must encourage and reward the upfront investment to secure this zero-fuel cost energy. Other states are already successfully advancing strong offshore development plans. For example, Maryland recently approved a 368 megawatt wind farm off its coast.

Investing in this pollution-free resource can both reduce pollution and boost our local economies. And because offshore wind can blow strongest during times of peak energy demand – afternoons and winter cold snaps – it can diversify our energy portfolio with large amounts of valuable, clean power just when we need it most.

Countries around the world are already reaping the economic and environmental benefits of offshore wind power. In Europe, this booming industry currently supports 70,000 long-term, quality jobs. The first offshore wind farm in the United States, the Block Island Wind Farm, created 300 jobs and will save Block Island residents as much as 40 percent on electricity bills.

State leaders play a critical role in advancing offshore wind power. We call on you to commit to the following actions to help North Carolina realize the golden opportunity on our horizon:

- **Establish a goal for offshore wind power as portion of the state’s electricity generation.**
- **Support policies that will advance renewable energy; including offshore wind power.**
- **Work with the federal agencies; including BOEM; to build on the progress that has been made to facilitate the siting of offshore wind in an efficient and environmentally responsible manner.**
- **Work with the universities and other institutions to promote research into offshore wind technology and an assessment of the infrastructure needed to spur development.**

North Carolina’s citizens, businesses and environment are depending on you for bold leadership in ensuring a clean energy future. We strongly urge you to recognize just how much we have to gain from harnessing our offshore wind power potential in a manner that protects wildlife and their habitats. For the sake of coastal resiliency, local jobs, increased investments in economic development and manufacturing and future generations, we thank you for your commitment to this clean energy solution, and look forward to working with you to bring this transformative and proven power source online.

Sincerely,

Conservation Groups

Appalachian Voices  
Environment North Carolina  
MountainTrue  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NC Conservation Network  
NC Council of Churches  
NC Interfaith Power & Light  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
River Guardian Foundation  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Southern Wind Energy Association

Elected Officials

Sen. Angela Bryant  
Sen. Paul Lowe  
Sen. Terry Van Duyn  
Sen. Valerie Foushee  
Rep. Billy Richardson  
Rep. Bryan Turner  
Rep. Chaz Beasley

Rep. Deb Butler  
Rep. George Graham  
Rep. Graig Meyer  
Rep. John Ager  
Rep. John Autry  
Rep. Marcia Morey  
Rep. Mary Ann Black  
Rep. Mary Belk  
Rep. Robert Reives  
Rep. Rosa Gill  
Rep. Shelly Willingham  
Rep. Terry Garrison  
Rep. Verla Insko  
Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle

Businesses

Bay River Pottery - Bayboro  
Beaufort Trading Company  
Emerald Isle Beach & Pool Club  
Flytrap Brewing - Wilmington  
Glynne's Soaps - Carolina Beach  
Green Sage Cafe - Asheville  
Hot Wax Surf Shop - Wilmington  
Naturopathic Family Wellness - Wilmington  
Ocean Grill - Carolina Beach  
Outer Banks Counseling Services - Kill Devil Hills  
Pecan Tree Hospitality - Beaufort  
Scuttlebutt Nautical Books and Bounty - Beaufort  
Secret Spot Surf Shop - Nags Head  
South End Surf Shop - Wrightsville Beach  
Sweetwater Surf Shop - Wrightsville Beach  
The Spot - Nags Head  
Vert and Vogue - Durham