

To Chair Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

My name is Gillian Kiley. I am a Cranston, RI resident, and I am writing in **support of H5816**.

This bill, if passed, will have a host of positive impacts on Rhode Island.

It will reduce our state's reliance on volatile fossil fuel prices and move us toward **energy independence**. Rhode Island has been called a potential "Saudi Arabia of wind" because of its ideal location for offshore wind.

Procuring electricity through offshore wind will give an enormous **boost to local economic development, create jobs and improve grid reliability**.

Offshore wind is an excellent **complement to solar energy**, because wind produces more energy at night and in the winter, times when solar energy production diminishes.

Bill H5816 has important secondary benefits, including for **public health**, because clean wind power generation does not create the air and particulate pollution that fossil fuels do. Air pollution from fossil fuels causes a wide range of ill health effects and diseases, from asthma to strokes, lung cancer, COPD and more.

Procuring wind power through this bill will enable Rhode Island to **achieve the goals set out by the Act on Climate law** and reduce emissions by 45 percent by 2030.

Furthermore, energy procured by local offshore wind will help **steward our local environment, help wildlife and support maritime industries**.

The National Audubon Society, which is focused on protecting bird life, has come out in favor of offshore wind, because climate change, driven by **fossil fuel emissions, is causing bird extinctions**. Currently 350 species of North American birds are at risk of extinctions due to climate change.

Warming oceans are affecting the food supply of Right Whales, whose reproductive rates are down as **food supply dwindles because feeding grounds are scrambled by rising ocean temperatures**. Beyond climate change, the two greatest dangers to whales are boat strikes and fishing gear entanglements.

Offshore wind can **support the fishing industry** by minimizing the negative impacts of climate change, providing fishermen with **supplemental income** from scouting and monitoring work, and by potentially boosting fish stocks. The submerged parts of wind turbines can act as **artificial reefs**, providing new habitats and creating new fisheries resources. If we stick with fossil fuels, our ocean waters will continue to warm and become more acidic and the fishing

industry will shift. Some fish stocks move north to colder waters, and acidification can make it difficult for shellfish to thrive.