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HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Representative Joseph Solomon, Jr., Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 7727 – An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers
– Offshore Wind Procurement Policy Study Commission**

Chairperson Solomon and members of the House Committee on Corporations:

On behalf of OW North America LLC (“Ocean Winds NA”) we respectfully support House Bill 7727, “An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Offshore Wind Procurement Policy Study Commission.”

The bill establishes an Offshore Wind Procurement Policy Study Commission to evaluate policies and procurement structures necessary to support the long-term development of offshore wind in Rhode Island. The bill supports a goal of procuring 1,200 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind capacity by the year 2030 in a manner that is cost-effective, reliable, and consistent with the state's climate and economic development goals, including high-quality job creation and workforce standards.

We commend the bill’s inclusion of labor representatives with a focus on high-quality job creation, apprenticeships, and local hire pathways. We also support how the bill advances the state's climate goals by creating a concrete mechanism and regulatory requirement to procure 1,200 MW of renewable offshore wind energy by 2030.

Since 2014, with the passage of the *Resilient Rhode Island Act*,¹ amended by the *2021 Act on Climate*, Rhode Island, home to the nation’s first offshore wind farm, has been committed to reducing its total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and moving toward renewable energy in furtherance of its mandate for net zero emissions by 2050. Offshore wind will not only help meet the urgent need for these important public policy requirements, it will also strengthen the Rhode Island and regional economy and help maintain grid reliability, especially by enhancing energy security in the months when needed most.

According to the State’s *2025 Climate Action Strategy*,² approved by the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council in December 2025, Rhode Island is nearly on track to meet its 2030 target (45% reduction of GHG emissions) under current policies. To achieve the *Act on Climate* requirements, Rhode Island should remain committed to its policies intended to reduce utility bills, incentivize deployment of renewable resources in the region, and procure clean electricity.

Ocean Winds (“OW”) is an international company dedicated to offshore wind energy and created as a 50-50 joint venture by EDP Renewables and ENGIE. We believe that offshore wind energy is an essential part of the global energy transition. OW’s SouthCoast Wind project is under development and sited off the New England coast with the potential to generate and transmit approximately 2.4 GW of clean energy to the New England grid. SouthCoast Wind has been progressing through the Rhode Island state permitting process since 2022.

¹ RIGL § 42-6.2.

² <https://climatechange.ri.gov/media/2221/download?language=en>

Ocean Winds NA respectfully urges your support of H 7727 and appreciates this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Flood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Flood
Head of Permitting & Stakeholders
OW North America LLC

cc: SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC