



Powerful Futures Start Here

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R.998 - Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

On behalf of Cape Cod Community College, our current and future students, and our business and industry partners in education, we are very supportive of H.R. 998, *The Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act*. This legislation, when enacted and funded, will accelerate the development and implementation of education and workforce development for the offshore wind industry under development across our nation. We look forward to continuing our engagement, building off of our existing renewable resources, maintenance technology, and engineering and advanced manufacturing programs.

The economic development and workforce opportunities of this industry are now more important than ever as we move beyond the pandemic and its economic implications, while addressing longer term energy and carbon concerns. There is urgency for this legislation and its funding, with greater awareness of the need to retool and educate for the new opportunities connected with offshore wind and renewable energy.

Cape Cod Community College (4Cs) partners with regional higher education institutions to provide the critical education to support these career paths and our future workforce. Recently, Vineyard Wind joined with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to distribute \$721,500 in grants to six academic and labor institutions to establish training for workers to enter the offshore wind industry. 4Cs launched courses to educate the next generation of workers on the career opportunities in offshore wind, developing the Certificate in Sustainable Energy delivering a suite of courses to introduce students and workers to careers in offshore wind, including *Offshore Wind 101* and *Energy, Security, Climate, and You*.

Our region is collaborating to prepare a workforce for this industry, including Massachusetts Maritime Academy, which recently unveiled the first-in-the-nation offshore wind crew transfer training facility. Building on both public and private partnerships, the support of H.R. 998 will enable our regional public higher education institutions to build out America's energy infrastructure and continue to transition our workforce and so we meet the demands of the 21st century economy. With Congress' support, we look forward to enhancing our current aviation maintenance technology and powerplant programs with expertise to include turbine maintenance and operations. Similarly, as a part of the maintenance needs for offshore wind production, we seek options to extend our FAA Aeronautical Knowledge Requirements and Drone Flying Skills courses to include additional expanded Remote Sensing and Imagery Analysis options. Leveraging Federal support with our local offshore wind industry enables 4Cs and other institutions to expedite efforts to meet the workforce development needs for our community and establish a framework for the first of potentially many large-scale offshore energy infrastructure projects developed along the East Coast.

On behalf of our students and future graduates supporting Offshore Wind, thank you for your timely consideration and approval of H.R. 998, *The Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act*. Your urgent approval and funding will ensure that the offshore renewable energy industry will be viable at such a critical time in our Nation's history, strengthening our American workforce, and sustainably meeting the demands of the domestic energy sector.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our students.

Yours sincerely,

John L. Cox, EdD, CPA, President