



April 19, 2021

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral  
Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral  
Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lowenthal, Ranking Member Stauber, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters, The Wilderness Society (TWS) writes to express support for H.R. 998, the Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act, being heard before the Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

The Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunity Act, sponsored by Representative Keating would create a grant program for the Department of the Interior to provide funding to educational institutions or labor organizations to offer offshore wind career training opportunities. Priority in awarding grants will be given to economically distressed areas, programs that focus on training and employing displaced workers, veterans, at-risk youth and others who face employment challenges and to grantees who have built partnerships between higher education institutions and labor organizations or industry employers. A skilled workforce will be necessary to support expansion of the clean energy industry, and this bill will allow for development of more and better training programs to provide higher levels of employment readiness and a more effective and efficient offshore wind industry. Given the emphasis on providing more accessible and equitable job training and the need for a strong renewable energy workforce, TWS urges all Members of the Committee to support H.R. 998.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Drew McConville  
Senior Managing Director, Government Relations  
The Wilderness Society