

Questions for the Record

Questions from Rep. McEachin (D-VA)

1. Why is it important that the federal government provide funding for offshore wind workforce development? Why isn't this something that private companies can fund on their own?

Response from Dr. Christopher Hart

1. The Federal Government has a proven track record of working with emerging industries to develop successful workforce development programs. Atlantic Shores believes a sufficient pipeline of projects in the United States will incentivize turbine suppliers and other manufacturing and engineering firms to invest in the American offshore workforce. The influx of firms attracted by an offshore pipeline bring opportunities for long-term, sustainable jobs. In the near-term, we believe turbine components such as tower sections, foundation technology and substations will begin to be manufactured in the United States. Private companies will invest in operations and maintenance workers along with construction, once again bringing more long-term jobs to the U.S. in the near-term. Major wind turbine generator original equipment manufacturers (WTG OEMs) will start to invest in manufacturing if the need and skill pool is clearly seen. The Federal Government can maximize the potential of all of these opportunities through proper coordination and strategic investment.