

BOEM HEARING, FEB. 16, 2022

My name is Peggy Schultz. I'm speaking on behalf of POWER, People for Offshore Wind Energy Resources, a coalition of organizations in support of an offshore wind project for Delaware. As you know, Delaware is the only coastal Mid-Atlantic state that has no offshore wind project commitment. We appreciate BOEM's concern with natural resource issues, and with research that has taken place regarding commercial fishing issues.

My dad was a commercial fisherman off the west coast, so I have a lifelong interest in that industry. We need to remember when we work out offshore wind and fishing interfaces that climate change is affecting water temperatures, and if we don't take fairly drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the waters off Delaware's coast will be too warm for the fish stock currently there.

We urge BOEM to continue its orderly process, and designate new call areas off Delaware's shores. Having additional wind energy areas off our own coast will provide not only the opportunity for an offshore wind project for Delaware but will also encourage offshore wind support facility investments in Delaware and will provide employment for Delawareans.

An 800 MW offshore wind project for Delaware will provide 28-30% of our total energy needs. And it will enable us to have a fighting chance of reaching President Biden's goal of net zero emissions by 2050.