



February 22, 2021

US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,

Advocating energy sustainability through clean energy and energy conservation remains one of Concerned Citizens of Montauk's (CCOM) key environmental sustainability objectives. New York State is leading the nation in the fight against climate change and has championed offshore wind, having passed the nation's strongest climate change law in 2019, which requires 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% by 2040. These goals cannot be achieved without also achieving or exceeding a target of 9,000 MW of offshore wind power. The South Fork Wind Farm (SFW) represents the first important step toward reaching this target and is expected to generate 130 MW of offshore power to 70,000 homes on the South Fork of Long Island.

Locally, CCOM applauds the Town of East Hampton's ambitious sustainable energy goals, which also cannot be achieved without actively pursuing offshore wind energy and a utility-scale offshore wind project which may result from the SFW initiative or future proposed projects. In addition, CCOM and Montauk have a unique stake in the climate change battle given the hamlet's shoreline vulnerability to sea level rise and extreme weather relative to others, as well as risks to fisheries from ocean acidification and warming waters.

However, CCOM continues to pay particular attention to, and to minimize to the maximum extent as possible, any known, unknown, or unforeseen environmental impacts, including those to the fishing industry and environmentally sensitive and preserved lands associated with installation, operation, and maintenance of these technologies. A rigorous and transparent permitting process must proceed, with extensive pre-through post-project monitoring to ensure we thoroughly understand and address impacts on the scaling of individual and multiple projects.

Overall, CCOM supports the thorough and comprehensive analysis and recommendations that BOEM has made in the DEIS and look forward to the approval process moving forward. That said, regarding the document's discussion of the proposed operations and maintenance (O&M) facility in Montauk Harbor, CCOM would like to see greater detail specific to initial and maintenance dredging, potential improvements to docks and additional slips, and any changes to the property to the extent that they may have environmental impacts. In addition to requesting greater clarity from BOEM on the plans for the Montauk O&M facility, CCOM expects a rigorous Town of East Hampton permitting process for any change within Lake Montauk related to the O&M facility, as would be the case with any significant project, including potential permits from the town's Natural Resources Department and/or Planning Department for a site plan review, as required.

Respectfully,



CCOM President