



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

PLANNED OFFSHORE WIND TRANSMISSION ACT

S.6218A – PARKER

A.7764 – MITAYNES

Description: Requires NYSERDA to lead a transmission planning process for offshore wind and authorizes temporary parkland alienation in City of Long Beach for an offshore wind cable construction and operation

Justification

New York State is a leader in the fight against climate change having passed the strongest climate change law in the nation in 2019. New York is working to achieve mandates of 70% renewable energy by 2030, carbon neutral electricity by 2040, and a net zero carbon economy by 2050. We cannot achieve these goals, particularly in downstate New York, without achieving or exceeding 9,000 MW of offshore wind. Empire Wind 2, along with the four other selected offshore wind projects, will bring us nearly halfway to meeting our state offshore wind mandate.

Empire Wind 2 will power 600,000+ Long Island homes with renewable energy generated by wind turbines off the coast of Long Beach and Jones Beach. The cable connection for this project is currently scheduled to go through the City of Long Beach to a substation in Island Park. As part of the federal and state review process, Empire Wind is undergoing numerous environmental, economic, and community impact studies to ensure that the wind farm and cable connection route are the least impactful to our ecosystem and residents.

As more and more offshore wind is built in the New York bight, siting undersea and, on Long Island, subterranean transmission cables to bring wind energy ashore will become more and more complicated. In the absence of State action, transmission siting for offshore wind could become a free-for-all that is inefficient, slow, and costly to ratepayers. That is why S. 6218-A/A. 7764 would require that any further offshore wind beyond the 9 GW currently required by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act be subject to a transmission planning process led by NYSERDA in consultation with DPS, NYISO, and other relevant stakeholders.

This bill would also temporarily alienate parkland in the City of Long Beach allow for the construction of the cable connection through the City of Long Beach that will power hundreds of thousands of Long Island homes with renewable energy. Outside of short-term construction impacts, this cable should not interfere with residential or commercial usage of the beach or boardwalk where the cable comes ashore. Empire Wind would be responsible for fully restoring the parkland upon the completion of the work.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
S.6218A/A.7764—Planned Offshore Wind Transmission Act**

CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

June 2023

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