



Office of the Governor

Pat McCrory
Governor

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Renewable Energy Programs
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Office of Renewable
Energy Programs

January 22, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The North Carolina Energy Office wants to go on the record in support of the decision, announced last month, by the U.S. Department of the Interior to move ahead to designate sites off of North Carolina's coast for development of offshore wind energy (*Federal Register Vol. 77, No. 240; Dec. 13, 2012; Docket No. BOEM-2012-0088*).

This step to identify three potential areas for commercial offshore wind energy off North Carolina's coast was made with consultation and my support, the N.C. Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

I believe an "all-of-the-above" energy plan that includes wind is vital to a prosperous energy future in North Carolina. I have pledged to establish a partnership with neighboring states to develop offshore resources and recruit companies to bring a much-needed infusion of energy, jobs and investment to the state.

This is an important step to develop North Carolina's world-class wind energy resources. For nearly two years, local, state and federal officials as well as business and community leaders have been meeting to discuss ways to move ahead with development of coastal wind energy resources that are consistent with regional and local environmental and other economic development concerns.

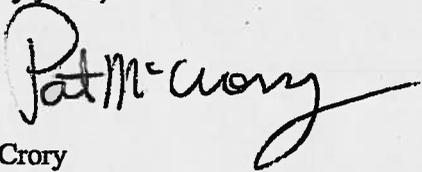
Development of commercial wind farms off the North Carolina coast could stimulate factory development in the state to provide the necessary equipment and bring jobs in that sector. Development of commercial wind power off the North Carolina coast could help diversity the portfolio of renewable energy sources in the state.

North Carolina is already positioned with as many as 2,000 to 3,000 jobs in wind energy and wind energy-related businesses including ABB which makes cables for power transmission, Nucor which makes steel plates used in wind turbine towers and PPG which makes fiberglass for wind turbine blades. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has estimated that developing North Carolina's offshore wind energy resources could generate \$22 billion in new economic activity and create as many as 10,000 permanent jobs. This potential has been solidified with the recent renewal of the federal wind production tax credit.

Development of North Carolina's offshore wind energy resources is not just good for this state's economy, but it will continue to fulfill work toward an "all of the above" strategy to move our nation toward greater energy independence.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCrory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Pat McCrory
Governor of the State of North Carolina

CC: North Carolina Congressional Delegation