

## 12 NJ MAYORS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE MORATORIUM ON ALL OFFSHORE WIND ACTIVITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The alarming number of recent whale deaths has prompted 12 mayors of New Jersey coastal towns to call for immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activity pending a thorough investigation by federal and state authorities. In a letter to federal and state officials, the mayors express their concern about “the unprecedented number of whales that have washed ashore recently.” Concerns that acoustic surveys related to offshore wind development may be a contributing factor in the 7 recent whale deaths that occurred over a 38-day period - more than has ever been recorded in the State of New Jersey in such a small amount of time - has brought strong opposition from local environmental groups and residents. This morning, the 8<sup>th</sup> dead whale in the New Jersey and New York area washed ashore on Lido Beach, New York. The officials represent the communities of Wildwood Crest, North Wildwood, Stone Harbor, Linwood, Brigantine, Long Beach Township, Mantoloking, Bay Head, Point Pleasant Beach, Spring Lake, and Deal. Additional communities in New Jersey have moved to consider resolutions for an immediate moratorium on offshore wind activity as well.

The mayors’ letter emphasizes that “While we are not opposed to clean energy, we are concerned about the impacts these projects may already be having on our environment.” Offshore wind developers have obtained permits for the “incidental taking” of whales, which would typically be illegal under federal law. This could include potential injury to whales, such as damaging their hearing, or by causing behavioral disruptions in feeding and migration. In response to similar concerns, Benjamin Laws, Deputy Chief for the Permits and Conservation Division with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources, says that “there is an expectation that the work will impact marine life, including whales.” NOAA and other self-described environmental groups denounce the lack of evidence about the cause for these recent whale deaths and nevertheless encourage the wind industry and Governor Murphy to press on with his plan to install 11.5 GW of offshore wind projects in New Jersey.

The mayors call for an immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activity pending a thorough investigation by federal and state agencies “that confidently determines” the offshore wind activities are not a contributing factor in the recent whale deaths.

Senator Bob Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Cory Booker  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Van Drew  
2427 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
2107 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith  
2373 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 12 New Jersey Coastal Mayors Unite in Calling for a Moratorium on All Offshore Wind Activity Until Investigations are Held

Dear Members of the New Jersey Delegation,

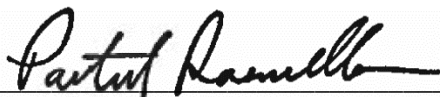
The 12 undersigned mayors of New Jersey coastal communities stand united in their concern about the unprecedented number of whales that have washed ashore recently and call for an immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activities until an investigation is held by federal and state agencies that confidently determines these activities are not a contributing factor to recent whale deaths.

On January 12th, the 7th dead whale in 38 days washed ashore in Brigantine, New Jersey. The unprecedented number of whale strandings coincides with ongoing activity from acoustic survey vessels for the development of offshore wind.

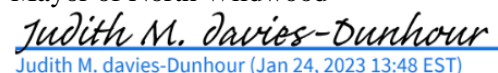
While we are not opposed to clean energy, we are concerned about the impacts these projects may already be having on our environment. We urge you to take action now to prevent future deaths from needlessly occurring on our shorelines.

We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



PATRICK ROSENELLO  
Mayor of North Wildwood



JUDITH M. DAVIES-DUNHOUR  
Mayor of Stone Harbor



PAUL M. KANITRA  
Mayor of Point Pleasant Beach



Vincent J. Sera (Jan 25, 2023 10:45 EST)

VINCENT SERA  
Mayor of Brigantine



SAMUEL COHEN  
Mayor of Deal



JOSEPH MANCINI  
Mayor of Long Beach Township

William W. Curtis  
William W. Curtis (Jan 25, 2023 15:31 EST)

BILL CURTIS  
Mayor of Bay Head

Don  
Don Cabrera (Jan 23, 2023 09:43 HST)

DON CABRERA  
Mayor of Wildwood Crest

Michael Becker

MICHAEL BECKER  
Mayor of Margate

Lance White

LANCE WHITE  
Mayor of Mantoloking

Jennifer Naughton

JENNIFER NAUGHTON  
Mayor of Spring Lake

Darren Matik

DARREN MATIK  
Mayor of Linwood