

Long Beach

NEW YORK
— The City by the Sea —

June 19, 2023

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building 932
Albany, NY 12248
speaker@nyassembly.gov

Dear Speaker Heastie:

Upon further consideration and discussion, the below signed members of the Long Beach City Council withdraw our objections to the Assembly's consideration of A.7764.

The section of the Bill that pertains directly to the City of Long Beach originates from unanimous passage of a Home Rule request by the Council with respect to potentially alienating subsurface portions of our beach for use by Equinor as part of the Empire Wind II project. The Council made this request because it wishes to be the ultimate arbiter of whether or not this permission is granted. To be clear, the request does NOT indicate the City Council's support for the Empire Wind II project or any component thereof, including the route of the transmission line. Further, if the Home Rule request is granted, it would not obligate the City to grant the alienation request.

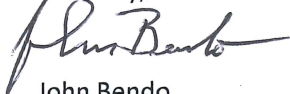
As a community devastated by Super Storm Sandy, Long Beach is keenly aware of the need to address climate change and this Council is fully supportive of the State and Federal Government's renewable energy initiatives, including offshore wind. Having said that, we continue to be deeply frustrated with Equinor's seeming inability to meaningfully engage our residents and have serious doubts about their ability to become a trusted partner to our south shore communities.

Many of our residents have expressed deep concerns about this project's impact on public health, marine life, home values and national security, among others. To date, Equinor's performance has been dismal in alleviating these concerns. We are aware that Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Assemblyman Brown have shared these concerns and assessment of Equinor's performance with their respective bodies. On these fronts, we concur with them.

We find it both regrettable and disappointing that what should have been a straight forward Home Rule request has been twisted into a broader political referendum on offshore wind and renewable energy. We are simply requesting the State give the City of Long Beach providence over what happens to its own beaches. We ask that the matter stop being obfuscated and that we be granted the authority requested.

Thank you for your continued leadership and concern for the interests of the residents of Long Beach.

Sincerely,



John Bendo
President



Elizabeth M. Treston
Vice President



Karen McInnis



Tina Posterli