



CITY OF LONG BEACH

1 WEST CHESTER STREET
LONG BEACH, N.Y. 11561
(516) 431-1001
FAX: (516) 431-1389

CITY COUNCIL

JOHN D. BENDO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ELIZABETH M. TRESTON, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT
ROY LESTER, COUNCIL MEMBER
KAREN MCINNIS, COUNCIL MEMBER
TINA POSTERLI, COUNCIL MEMBER

July 17, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

It is with much frustration and disappointment that the members of the Long Beach City Council write this letter voicing our firm opposition to Equinor's proposed Empire Wind project. We are fully supportive of the responsible development of offshore wind as a vital component of the transition away from fossil fuels. We are also keenly aware that unless we can mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, we will have no barrier island or marine sea life to advocate for. For the following reasons, however, we find both this proposed project and its proposer to be completely irresponsible.

- 1) This project proposes to run a high-voltage A/C transmission line through a densely populated residential community, directly impacting thousands of residents. Long Beach is the 34th most densely populated municipality in the entire country and this project proposes to run its transmission lines through one of the most densely populated parts of our community. The City Council and the residents we represent find this completely unacceptable.
- 2) The project proposes to construct a substation in the residential community of Island Park along Reynolds Channel, adjacent to Long Beach. Long Beach (along with its federal, state and county partners) is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on flood mitigation and to clean up our north shore and the back bay. More than a decade in the making, these projects would improve resiliency and the water quality of the back bay and free up multiple acres along the City's north shore for public use. These projects would be greatly diminished if the end result is the visual blight of a multi-story substation.
- 3) This is the only offshore wind project proposed off Long Island that would have a visual impact on the nearby shore communities. All other proposed projects in New York are out of visual range.

- 4) Equinor, the project's proposer, has done a dismal job in meaningfully engaging residents and addressing their concerns with respect to this project. For months we have implored them to improve their community engagement and their response has been utterly lacking. We see no current scenario where Equinor can become a trusted partner to our south shore communities.

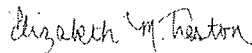
Again, we are fully in support of the necessary and urgently needed transition to renewable energy and stand ready to engage with an offshore wind developer that proposes a responsible project, that does not adversely impact our residents or city, and proves to be a good community partner. Equinor and the proposed Empire Wind project meet none of those criteria and, as a result, we are fervently opposed to that project.

Respectfully,

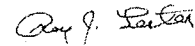
John D. Bendo, Council President



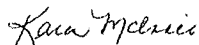
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Tina Posterli, Council Member



CC: Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Congressman Anthony D'Esposito
NY Senator Patricia Canzoneri Fitzpatrick
NY Assemblyman Ari Brown
County Executive Bruce Blakeman
County Legislator Denise Ford
Supervisor Donald Clavin
Acting City Manager, Ronald J. Walsh, Jr.
Mayor Michael McGinty
Doreen Harris, NYSERDA
Susan Lienau, Equinor