



May 30, 2012

Mr. Gil C. Quinones
Co-Chair, Energy Highway Task Force
President and Chief Executive Officer
New York Power Authority
123 Main Street, 16th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601-3170
info@nyenergyhighway.com

Dear Mr. Quinones:

On behalf of the Long Island Federation of Labor, representing 250,000 union members on Long Island, I am writing to encourage the Energy Highway Task Force to prioritize the development of our vast offshore wind energy resources. By planning now for the transmission and generation of offshore wind energy, New York can be sure that this massive, local energy source provides reliable clean energy and substantial job opportunities for New Yorkers for decades.

A robust offshore wind industry in New York will create decent, family-sustaining jobs by taking advantage of our strong manufacturing infrastructure and highly skilled construction, operations, and maintenance workforce. By bringing a new industry to this region, workers will benefit from the establishment of new permanent heavy industry port facilities and a supply chain that leverages the region's existing manufacturing base. Additionally, wind farms require a large workforce to operate and maintain them over their 20+ year design life. These high-paying, long-term operation and maintenance jobs will typically equate to an even greater number of job-years than the initial construction jobs because of the challenges of operating wind farms in a marine environment.

Developing our offshore wind energy resources will serve as a major local economic stimulus, creating not just jobs but new careers for New Yorkers. In order for an offshore wind industry to realize its full economic development potential, offshore wind projects must pay prevailing wages and provide decent benefits to workers. It is also imperative that offshore wind facilities provide the necessary infrastructure to keep workers safe while on the towers and operating within the electrical and mechanical components at sea.

390 Rabro Drive ■ Hauppauge, New York 11788
(631) 348-1170 fax (631) 348-1180
www.longislandfed.org



Clean, secure, and domestically-produced sources of energy are an imperative for our 21st century economy, helping the nation lower its emissions, diversify its energy portfolio and put Americans back to work. We strongly encourage the Energy Highway Task Force to ensure that offshore wind energy plays a major role in generating clean energy and jobs for New York.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Roger Clayman
Executive Director

The 250,000 member Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, represents a wide range of union workers from teachers to technicians, public employees to painters, bus drivers to bricklayers, retail, auto, janitorial, utility, health care and construction workers. The Federation is the voice for the Long Island labor movement. It speaks on behalf of Long Island's working families and its affiliated local unions to political leaders and legislative bodies at every level of government. We build power through mobilization, politics, communication, research and media relations. We magnify our strength through our relationships in the community.



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