

President Trump's Executive Order Empowers Our Battle Against Offshore Wind But, Our Fight is Not Over!

January 23, 2025

Dear Defend Our Beaches NJ Supporters and Friends,

President Trump's recent Executive Order (EO) calling for the temporary withdrawal of new ocean areas for offshore wind leasing and a halt on new project approvals pending a review of leasing and permitting practices is a step in the right direction per President Trump's promise to stop Offshore Wind. However, as the Atlantic Shores South New Jersey project already has a lease area and federal approvals, and the Atlantic Shores North New Jersey project has a lease area but no project approvals, the EO as written does not apply to these two projects which are our primary concern here in NJ.

While the EO does not outright cancel existing leases or rescind existing project approvals, it does put into place the legal mechanisms to do so. The Order mandates a *"review of existing leasing and permitting practices and requires a report to the President identifying any legal, environmental, or other bases for rescinding or amending prior approvals. It also directs the Attorney General to intervene in pending litigation and seek schedule changes and relief consistent with the Executive Order."*

We believe that this review will make our lawsuit against the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Coastal Zone Management Act lawsuit challenging the destruction of our oceans and marine life critically important. In addition, our lawsuit challenging the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Solicitation #3 awards to Attentive Energy and Leading Light Wind will demonstrate the exorbitant costs that will be placed on the Ratepayers in New Jersey. For the first time, the NJBPU is being held to account for these actions and its decisions to approve offshore wind rates that don't comply with the law and Citizens Rights to Due Process. We are also prepared to file a second lawsuit against the BPU should they award Solicitation #4 and try to award Atlantic Shores with a MUCH MORE COSTLY contract – BORN BY RATE PAYERS - than was previously negotiated.

In addition THE SAVE LBI ORGANIZATION recently filed broad federal litigation, against the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Department of Interior, and the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind project for violations of a number of federal environmental statutes, challenging Atlantic Shores' federal approvals, based on violations of environmental statutes such as the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Clean Air Act." This is a major lawsuit with far-reaching implications.

All these lawsuits, both State and Federal, are likely to serve as test cases for how the new Interior Secretary and Attorney General implement the results of their leasing and permitting review. The legal arguments and detailed supporting technical analysis in the lawsuits should also provide strong justification for the Secretary of the Interior to cancel existing Federal leases and subsequently State Contracts, and rescind project approvals, and ending these projects.

It is important to note that **Our Fight is NOT OVER**. Our Congressman, Jeff Van Drew was instrumental in writing the current Executive Order with the President based on information garnered from many of the organization opposing these devastating projects. Please continue to contact your local, county, state and federal representatives, so they don't forget that we are still strongly opposed to the Offshore Wind projects.

We continue to need your support both personally and financially to officially end these projects in a manner that they cannot be re-started in the future. We are close to the finish line, but we haven't crossed it yet. This is an "All Hands-on Deck Call" to you for financial donations to our organization and spreading the word that we all still have work to do.

To donate please go to our Website DefendourbeachesNJ.org and click "DONATE."
Thank you all for your dedication so far. **LET'S FINISH THIS!!**