

SB 170

My name is John Irwin. I'm co-chair of the Climate and Energy Committee of the Delaware chapter of the Sierra Club.

I'm here to support Senate Bill 170.

We've been hearing a lot of concern about where we will get electricity going forward with the need to move from fossil fuels to electrify everything. This is a major way to meet that need for clean power. Offshore wind is very steady and strong. Oceana did an analysis showing that DE could potentially meet 137% of its electricity needs with offshore wind saving \$274 million a year.

The recommended cost-effective size project could deliver nearly a third of the electricity we're using. This moves us a long way towards our proposed greenhouse gas reduction goals. It's hard to figure reaching those goals without offshore wind.

Clean electricity also leads to health benefits as we reduce demand for dirty energy to our west. It creates significant job opportunities in construction, operations, and potentially a marshalling port if we move forward quickly enough. The consistency of the wind offshore also contributes to the overall reliability of our energy system.

Every other state from North Carolina to Maine has begun a procurement process and we can learn from those experiences. There must be some reason they're all doing it. It's time for us to start our own process which I hope will result in a procurement process next year.

We know now that prices have dropped precipitously since the 2018 exploration of wind project feasibility. Offshore wind doesn't need subsidies to be cost competitive anymore. We have solid guidance available from last year's Special Initiative on Offshore Wind (SIOW) report about options and what works to get a good price.

This bill takes us another step forward, studying the transmission issues for the regional grid and what prospects there are for regional cooperation in transmission of electricity from offshore to substations on the grid. It also calls for studying the procurement process and learning from the experience of other states. These are appropriate and valuable steps forward.

Let's be clear there is no commitment in this bill to proceed with a procurement process.

That is a decision for the future, informed by the results of the studies called for in this bill.

I urge you to move this forward.

<https://usa.oceana.org/offshore-wind-state-state-analysis/>