



January 18, 2019

Mr. Matthew Beaton, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)  
MEPA Office Purvi Patel, EEA No. 15787 (Vineyard Wind Connector)  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

**Re: Support for Offshore Wind and Vineyard Wind Connector**

Dear Secretary Beaton and Ms. Patel,

I am writing today in support of the Vineyard Wind Connector, which would bring 800 MW of clean, renewable energy from the country's first commercial-scale offshore wind project onshore in Barnstable, Massachusetts. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) submitted by Vineyard Wind reflects refinements and improvements to the company's initial proposal and demonstrates their commitment to working collaboratively with local communities to deliver real benefits to the state.

As a solar developer whose companies have been doing business in the Commonwealth since 1979, I understand the critical importance of policy leadership in providing a foundation upon which new industries can grow and thrive. Similar to the Commonwealth's early work on solar, Massachusetts is leading the nation's efforts to establish a vibrant and robust offshore wind industry. We stand to capture significant economic and job creation benefits as a result. In fact, the recent news regarding MHI Vestas's decision to open its US headquarters in Boston shows that our efforts are already bearing fruit.

At the same time, offshore wind will go a long way to ensuring we meet the emission reduction targets set established by the Global warming Solutions Act. The FEIR notes that Vineyard Wind's project will reduce New England's electricity sector emissions by as much as 1.6 million tons per year. The project also stands to lower electricity prices and could deliver total benefits worth more than \$1.4 billion dollars.

In light of the potential benefits, limited environmental impacts, and Vineyard Wind's track record of listening to and working with local communities, I strongly encourage you to allow Vineyard Wind Connector to move forward.

In addition to approving the project, the Baker administration should use the 2% per year rate of increase in the state's renewable portfolio standard in the planning for a smarter grid, together with a commitment to install 25% of solar generation in Massachusetts. Longer term policies and regulations need to be established today for both small and larger scale solar and wind plus storage through 2030. Taken together, policies like these have the potential to do even more to positively transform our energy system, lower costs for all ratepayers, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Pope", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Doug Pope  
President