

Blue Jersey

"All the news that slips from print"

Offshore Wind Letter to President Obama

by: Rosi Efthim

Tue Mar 08, 2011 at 04:11:41 PM EST

As gas prices slide upwards almost by the hour, even here in low-gas tax New Jersey, it's a good week for President Barack Obama to be opening his mail.

The president just got a letter in support of the "homegrown clean energy source" the signers say offshore wind off the Atlantic Seaboard is. The signers - politicians, environmental groups and others - are from nearly 3 dozen environmental, conservation, research and health organizations, plus electeds from up & down the East Coast. The letter asks for a "bold goal" for wind development, and standards to protect marine & offshore ecosystems. From NJ, 8 politicians signed; 7 prominent Dems, and a lone Republican.

How we harness the vast power to be found in, above and under the sea is in great flux. Following BP's *Deepwater Horizon* massive oil spill, President Obama reversed himself and put a 7-year ban on offshore drilling for the East & West coasts, and eastern Gulf (it's allowed in the western Gulf). Now, the GOP *Drill, Baby, Drill* crowd wants to meet rising oil prices with more and faster drilling back in the western Gulf. NJ politicians including Gov. Christie oppose off-shore drilling off/near New Jersey's shores.

NJ's Energy Master Plan calls for a minimum of 1000 megawatts of off shore wind capacity to be developed by 2012 with 3000 MW of off-shore wind by 2020. But Sierra Club's Jeff Tittel said this week Gov. Christie's cuts to clean energy may impact solar or offshore wind goals. Renewable energy money gets cut by the governor at the same time he finds billions to spend to subsidize a natural gas plant which they say will encourage fracking and drilling in the Marcellus Shale that will pollute the Delaware River basin. Both the NJ and national Sierra Clubs signed the letter to the president.

Is your local green group or politician on this list? Blue Jersey's own Loretta Weinberg is. Check the list after the jump.

Rosi Efthim :: Offshore Wind Letter to President Obama

New Jersey signers

American Jewish Committee of New Jersey
Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)
Atlantic County Utilities Authority
Byram Township Deputy Mayor Scott Olson
Environment New Jersey
Grandmothers Mothers and More for Energy Safety (GRAMMES)
Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy
New Jersey Audubon Society
New Jersey Environmental Federation
New Jersey Highlands Coalition
New Jersey Work Environment Council
NJ Assemblyman John McKeon
NJ Assemblyman Samuel Thompson

NJ Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula
NJ Assemblywoman Connie Wagner
NJ Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, Speaker of the Assembly
NJ State Senator Barbara Buono, Senate Majority Leader
NJ State Senator Loretta Weinberg
ResurgInt EcoLogical Sustainability Consultants
Sierra Club, NJ Chapter
South Branch Watershed Association
Sustainable Highlands New Jersey
Upper Raritan Watershed Association