

*To All Members of the United States Congress*

## **Mayors Across the East Coast Call for Immediate Moratorium on All Offshore Wind Activity Following Unprecedented Whale and Dolphin Mortality**

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Members of the House and Senate,

As dozens of whales and dolphins continue to wash onto our beaches, the undersigned East Coast mayors demand an immediate moratorium on all offshore wind activity until the connection between offshore wind activity and marine mammal mortality occurring on our shorelines is thoroughly investigated.

Our coastal economies rely on a healthy ocean ecosystem to function, and we are increasingly concerned about the environmental impacts offshore wind may already be affecting our communities. These impacts are documented extensively in the Environmental Impact Statements prepared by BOEM in coordination with other federal agencies. In addition, NOAA has issued nearly a dozen Incidental Harassment Authorization permits to developers to harass tens of thousands of marine mammals while surveying the seafloor for the development of offshore wind, many of which are threatened or endangered.

The current level of marine mammal mortality is unacceptable, and we need answers. In the absence of scientific evidence explaining the increase in marine mortality, we believe the connection between offshore wind activity and marine mammal mortality must be investigated now.

We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

---