



TOWN OF DURHAM
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RESOLUTION #2017-21 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ENDORING THE FORMATION OF A MULTI-STATE TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL FOR OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTLINE

WHEREAS, the Town Council's 2017-2018 key objectives include "*Pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency, anticipating the community's and the region's future needs considering multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, transportation, agriculture, recreation, food and drinking water, climate, and energy resources.*"; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire has committed to 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050, but has yet to develop a plan to achieve that goal, and needs to work toward a sustainable energy system to ensure protection of the health of its people, environment, and economy before this date; and

WHEREAS, the federal Department of Energy has determined that the Gulf of Maine has a total potential wind power capacity in excess of 200,000 Megawatts within 50 miles of the coasts of New Hampshire, Maine and northeast Massachusetts, and that utilizing just a small percentage of this potential, combined with other renewable resources, could provide a significant percentage of the future power needs of our region; and

WHEREAS, operation of floating wind farms 10 to 50 miles off our coast is expected to have much less impact on our environment and public health than all existing power sources, as well as create less aesthetic concern than terrestrial wind farms; and

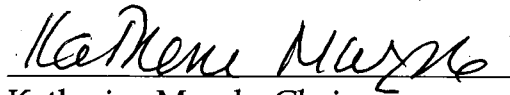
WHEREAS, development and operation of offshore wind farms have the potential to create large numbers of jobs and other economic activity within Portsmouth Harbor and other NH coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan NH legislative study committee report in 2015 concluded that "*The wind resource off of New Hampshire's coast has the potential to generate significant amounts of electricity,*" and that "*offshore wind development has the potential to generate significant economic activity within Portsmouth Harbor...*" recommending that the Governor request formation of an intergovernmental Task Force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire does hereby adopt Resolution #2017-21 and supports efforts to develop wind power off the New Hampshire coast, and urges Governor Sununu to make a formal request to the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to form a Task Force and stakeholder process to plan for regional offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Durham will send written notice of support for this resolution to the Governor of New Hampshire upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of June, 2017 by a majority vote of the Durham Town Council with Seven (7) voting in favor, One (1) voting against, and Zero (0) abstaining.


Katherine Marple, Chair
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:


Lorrie Pitt, Town Clerk-Tax Collector