

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 18, 2014

The Honorable David Danielson  
Assistant Secretary  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Danielson:

We are writing in support of the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation's (LEEDCo) continuation of the cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Award DE-EE0005989. The LEEDCo project, Icebreaker, is the only freshwater project in development in the United States and will play an important role in unlocking the tremendous offshore wind energy potential of the Great Lakes—which represents 20% of the total offshore wind energy capacity in the United States.

Icebreaker is the only project addressing the unique technical hurdles posed by freshwater installations. LEEDCo and other research partners have already experienced a number of successes in addressing appropriate solutions. Continued funding of this project is essential to developing this large-scale energy resource for the Great Lakes region and will lead to further diversification of the region and energy's energy portfolio.

The Great Lakes region is also well positioned to play an important role in the manufacturing supply chain for the offshore wind energy industry. The region has deep and long-standing advanced manufacturing capabilities that can deliver not only the myriad components needed for wind turbines, but also the large-scale fabrications needed for offshore turbine foundations. Moreover, the well-established maritime industry throughout the Great Lakes can efficiently provide transportation services, manpower, and other equipment necessary for construction in the lakes.

Continued funding of the Icebreaker project is critical to the long-term development of the vast offshore wind resource for the Great Lakes region and the nation. We strongly support the selection of the LEEDCo project and respectfully request your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



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MARCY KAPTUR  
Member of Congress

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SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



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MARCIA L. FUDGE  
Member of Congress



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DAVID P. JOYCE  
Member of Congress



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TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress