Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

The United States has a rich history of leading technical innovation. With a multitude of emerging markets in the energy industry, investment in renewable domestic markets is critical for the United States to remain on the cutting edge. We thank you and the Department for investing in offshore wind energy through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Offshore Wind Advanced Technology Demonstration Projects. Though we are pleased to see the federal government devote resources to this technology, there are concerns about the award recipients of this project.

The Offshore Wind Advanced Technology Demonstration Projects demand long term viability and consistency as demonstrated by the four milestones required for eligibility. A fair and reasonable evaluation of whether the four milestones are met by program awardees is critical. However, two recipients of this grant have demonstrated an inability to meet at least one of the specified milestones: Dominion announced on April 23, 2015 that they are putting their Virginia Offshore Wind project on hold; Fishermen's Energy was twice denied a Power Purchase Agreement by the Bureau of Public Utilities, one of which was denied again by the New Jersey appeals court. With tens of millions of federal dollars and four years dedicated to these projects, we need to ensure the federal government is awarding the projects to companies capable of delivering results.

LEEDCo, a listed alternate, presents a viable option capable and ready to fulfill the milestones of DOE's Offshore Wind Advanced Technology Demonstration Projects. LEEDCo has made incredible progress over the last 9 months in securing Power Purchase Agreements as well as private investment from the Fred Olsen companies. LEEDCo is positioned to become the second project in the U.S. under construction, ahead of all other DOE awardees.

We respectfully request that the DOE consider shuffling awardees for the Offshore Wind Advanced Technology Demonstration Project to protect the federal government's investment by selecting a more reliable entity.

Sincerely,

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

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