

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2016

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Danielson:

We write in support of advancing the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation's (LEEDCo) Icebreaker project from "Alternate" to "Finalist" status in the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Demonstration Program. The LEEDCo project is the only freshwater, wind 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 percent of the United States' total offshore wind energy capacity.

Since it was designated an "Alternate" in May 2014, LEEDCo has achieved significant milestones and overcome all of the weaknesses identified in the "Down-Select" process. Last year, LEEDCo partnered with Fred.Olsen Renewables (FOR) which subsequently made a significant investment in Icebreaker. Furthermore, FOR's commitment to developing this project and a larger wind-power infrastructure is clear. FOR established Fred Olsen Renewables USA in Cleveland, Ohio, as its headquarters for further development throughout the Great Lakes and the Atlantic. Based on the success with FOR as a partner, LEEDCo secured offtake commitments for 65 percent of future output through power purchase agreements.

In addition, Icebreaker is well positioned to play an important role to develop the domestic manufacturing supply chain for the offshore wind energy industry. The Great Lakes 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 fabricators needed for offshore wind turbine foundations. Moreover, the well-established maritime industry throughout the Great Lakes can efficiently provide transportation services, manpower, and equipment necessary for construction in the Great Lakes.

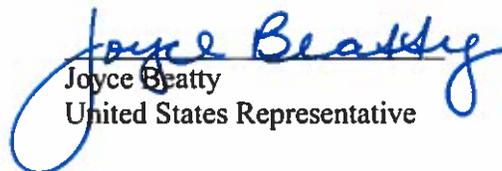
Continued funding of the Icebreaker project is critical to the long-term development of offshore wind in the Great Lakes. We strongly support the advancement of the LEEDCo project and respectfully request your full and fair consideration consistent with the Department of Energy's governing rules and regulations.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown

United States Senator



Joyce Beatty

United States Representative



Marcia L. Fudge
United States Representative



Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative



Tim Ryan
United States Representative