

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 Expressing the support of the General Assembly for the development of offshore wind energy resources
2 adjacent to the shores of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

3 WHEREAS, the offshore wind energy industry is a burgeoning industry in the United States, and
4 specifically on the East Coast of the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has been found to have off its coast an ideal wind resource for
6 offshore wind energy and both research and industry experts alike have determined that the
7 Commonwealth is an ideal location for development of offshore wind energy; and

8 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has off its coast the Outer Continental Shelf, which because it
9 is long and shallow allows for less costly and more efficient construction of a wind energy generation
10 facility, and (iii) is home to a robust grid with a 520KV transmission station accessible to the coast; and

11 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has the premiere maritime industry on the East Coast, which is
12 ideally suited to handle all manufacturing and supply chain needs for the construction of wind
13 generation facilities off the coast of the Commonwealth and the entire Eastern seaboard; and

14 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is home to the largest military-industrial complex in the United
15 States, which provides local industry with a skilled workforce as servicemen transition to civilian work;
16 and more than 200 potential supply chain companies located in the area are suited to manufacturing to
17 meet the needs of an offshore wind energy industry; and

18 WHEREAS, the development of offshore wind farms will lead to the creation of thousands of
19 jobs and immense opportunities for economic development and provide a renewable, sustainable source
20 of energy with minimal impact to the environment; and

21 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, a division
22 of the U.S. Department of the Interior, has issued a Request for Interest for lease blocks available for
23 wind farm development on the Outer Continental Shelf off Virginia's coast; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly
25 supports the development of offshore wind energy resources adjacent to the shores of the
26 Commonwealth of Virginia; and, be it

27 RESOLVED FURTHER, that the General Assembly supports a goal of the development of
28 3,000 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2025; and, be it

29 RESOLVED FURTHER, that the General Assembly supports the establishment of the
30 Commonwealth of Virginia as the hub of the offshore wind industry on the East Coast; and, be it

31 RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this
32 resolution to Governor Robert McDonnell, the Virginia Congressional Delegation, the U.S. Department
33 of Energy (DOE), and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) requesting that the Governor, the
34 Delegation, the DOE, and the DOI further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective
35 constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter
36 during their deliberations.

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