



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

March 17, 2025

Ms. Shannon Heafey  
Air Quality Permits Program  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Air and Radiation Administration  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
*Submitted electronically to shannon.heafey@maryland.gov*

**Re: US Wind Air Quality Permit to Construct Nos. 047-0248-9-0111 through 9-0114**

On behalf of the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA), our partners, and the members and supporters they represent, we are writing to express our strong support for issuing the Air Quality Permits to Construct for US Wind's Maryland Offshore Wind Project. These permits are a critical and responsible step in Maryland's clean energy transition, ensuring that offshore wind development moves forward while maintaining air quality safeguards.

The mission of BGA is to unify labor unions and environmental organizations into a powerful force to fight climate change, protect the health of people and the environment, stand against economic and racial inequality, and create and maintain good-paying, union jobs in communities across the country. Offshore wind is a vital clean energy solution that presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance this mission if projects are developed in an equitable and environmentally responsible manner—with high-road labor standards and attention to environmental justice. Offshore wind projects have the potential to create family-sustaining, union jobs; deliver benefits to communities hardest hit by climate change and economic inequality; and protect wildlife and critical habitats at every stage of development.

We recognize that the future of working people and the health of the environment are inextricably linked, rejecting the false choice that good-paying jobs and economic opportunity are at odds with protecting our environment. Offshore wind energy proves this statement in practice.

Maryland has made bold commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and offshore wind is an essential part of meeting these goals. The 2023 Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) Act enshrined Maryland's target of 8.5 GW of offshore wind by 2031, aligning with the state's statutory requirement to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. The US Wind project will generate

clean electricity, contributing to Maryland's energy goals and benefiting air quality across the state.

The Maryland Department of Environment has thoroughly reviewed this application and issued a favorable recommendation. They concluded the project is expected to comply with all applicable State and federal air quality requirements. We encourage the department to issue the air quality permits which would allow the proposed facility to move forward which will help create good union jobs, boost the local economy, and help Maryland meet its offshore wind goals.

When done right with protections for the environment and workers, offshore wind power will create high-quality, family-sustaining jobs in manufacturing, construction, and operations while also avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating environmental impacts. We appreciate your effort to solicit stakeholder input to inform the air quality permitting process.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Walsh', written in a cursive style.

Jason Walsh  
Executive Director  
BlueGreen Alliance