



25 February 2021

Massachusetts Distribution Companies and the
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
MARFP83C@gmail.com

Dear RFP Drafting Team,

As the Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Research (POWER-US) in Massachusetts, we work together to understand the entire offshore wind power system and to assist public sector decision makers in navigating the coming energy transition. Members of our Executive Council represent all four University of Massachusetts campuses, Northeastern University, Tufts University, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Since 2016 we have hosted over a dozen international workshops and conferences, published the “Reaching Convergence” and the “Ocean Test Bed” white papers, provided numerous formal and informal state and federal legislative briefings, created new offshore wind educational programs, and obtained over \$20 million in research funding. Approximately 65% of this funding has come from federal sources, 19% has come from state sources, and 17% has come from the private sector. Combined with Massachusetts’ creation of a utility scale offshore wind energy market and MassCEC’s creation of ground-breaking offshore wind infrastructure, our creation of a world class offshore wind research and education network demonstrate our Commonwealth’s potential for national and international leadership.

In December 2020 new federal legislation authorized \$625 million for wind energy research over the next five fiscal years. As demonstrated by our higher than 3:1 ratio of federal funding to state funding, research investments at the state-level will provide our institutions with a competitive advantage at the federal level for the nation’s most important wind energy research investments. We urge you to consider the outsized impact that Massachusetts can make on research, education, and leadership through a modest allocation from the Round III procurements. For this reason, we recommend the following addition to the Round III RFP:

Offshore wind bids shall allocate at least 1% of the cost of the proposed project to a fund in support of Massachusetts-based offshore wind power research and education. This fund shall be administered by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or POWER-US | Massachusetts, please reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Hines, Ph.D., P.E.
Chair, Executive Council
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