

November 22, 2023

Attention: Ann Wilkie (co-chair), James Wooder (co-chair), Graham Daborn, Steve Parsons and Lorraine Whitman

Email: carys.burgess@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Subject: Committee for the Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the Municipality of the District of Shelburne I would like to thank you for hosting an Information Session in Shelburne.

At the outset, let me emphasize our resolute support for responsible renewable energy production as we all try to deal with climate change. We applaud the Provincial Government in their quest to meet its goal of achieving 80 per cent renewable energy for its electricity needs by 2030. However, it is imperative that we exercise the utmost caution, safeguarding our fisheries—the economic backbone of Southwest Nova Scotia. "Responsible Renewable Energy" encapsulates our vision, where there is harmony between our fisheries and offshore wind energy production-

As we delve into these deliberations, we wish to offer a few perspectives that we believe should be considered:

Power Inequity: It is incumbent upon us to shed light on the existing onshore inequities. Currently, windfarm proposals tend to gravitate toward central power-consuming areas, leaving rural municipalities like ours deprived of the royalty benefits attributed to the affected municipality. This power inequity is a pressing concern, denying us the opportunity to be active

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participants in the renewable energy strategy. We urge you to address this disparity in your recommendations, ensuring that all regions partake in the rewards of clean energy initiatives as it may pertain to offshore wind developments.

Municipal Benefit: As we contemplate the impending offshore wind development, we foresee a similar power imbalance looming. Given our dependence on the fishing industry, any disruption caused by offshore windfarms would reverberate through our communities. Our vision to maximize the benefits of offshore wind development to the municipality, province and country includes one where fishing activities can continue unabated with offshore wind energy. Under this vision, there would be no reduction to the economic contribution to the province provided by the fishery, but instead additive value being provided to the economy as a whole by the development of offshore wind.

If we are faced with a situation whereby fishing operations are to be impacted, we would propose the implementation of a royalty formula, ensuring that all Nova Scotia municipalities, Fishermen and First Nations receive a fair share of the benefits as they are those most directly impacted by the projects. By entrusting municipalities as the conduits for distributing these benefits, we can directly uplift the communities most directly impacted by offshore wind development.

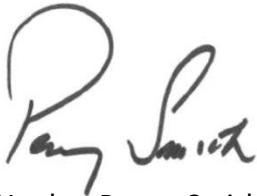
Offshore Servicing: It is conceivable that windfarm developers may prioritize cost-efficiency when servicing their installations. We advocate for the creation of offshore zones, akin to lobster license areas, where windfarm developments would be required to utilize harbors adjacent to those zones for servicing. Furthermore, granting local fisheries groups the first right of refusal for service contracts offers a unique opportunity for fishermen to directly benefit from windfarms in their waters. Though identifying the right stakeholders may pose challenges, the overarching principle is to provide opportunity to those most impacted.

Onshore Power Infrastructure: The location where power is brought ashore presents a host of considerations. We must not overlook the potential of onshore hydrogen production, which could be transformative for municipalities. To ensure equity, we recommend adopting a zone-based approach, aligning the location of power landfall with the municipality closest to the

respective windfarm. This not only enables hydrogen production but also bolsters onshore wind energy capacity as Nova Scotia Power will have to upgrade the southern power infrastructure, further decentralizing the benefits across the Province. Importantly, we propose stringent measures to prevent offshore windfarms from connecting directly with U.S. facilities, preserving the benefits for Nova Scotians.

In conclusion, we urge you to embrace the overarching theme of "Equity" as you craft your recommendations. Equity demands that every Nova Scotian has the opportunity to share in the rewards of offshore wind development, especially those communities like ours that rely completely on our fisheries to sustain our economies.

Sincerely,



Warden Penny Smith