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Deliver rapid greenhouse gas reductions at scale, starting in California.

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March 24, 2021

Honorable Chris Holden, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy  
State Capitol, Room 5132  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Via Committee Portal

RE: AB 525 (Chiu) Offshore Windpower – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Holden and Committee Members,

**On behalf of The Climate Center and its thousands of statewide supporters, I am writing to express support for AB 525.** California has yet to make a significant investment in offshore windpower, despite the fact that it could be a critical component of enabling the state to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals while creating more jobs in the emerging green economy.

AB 525 would help advance the state's goal of 100 percent clean energy by planning for the development of utility-scale offshore wind energy in the state. Specifically, this bill requires the California Energy Commission to develop a plan for California to achieve at least three gigawatts (GW) of offshore windpower by 2030, and ten GW by 2040.

**To be in alignment with the latest climate science and address rapidly worsening climate change, the state must [accelerate existing goals](#) to achieve net-negative emissions 15 years earlier, by 2030. Therefore, we recommend accelerating the timelines in this bill.**

That said, AB 525 could invigorate the state's offshore wind energy industry with the possibility of generating thousands of jobs. AB 525 directs the state to prepare a strategic plan for the harnessing of ecologically-sound offshore windpower, a resource that could add substantially to our supply of renewable energy.

The bill requires state and local governments to work together to study and establish workforce standards and equitable economic development benefits for the communities in which these wind energy facilities would be located. These practices could help ensure that everyone in a community might share the economic benefits of windpower.

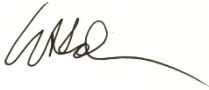
One of the biggest challenges for California's current renewable energy sector is supplying consumers with consistent clean power due to the variable production of solar. The peak of solar production is on sunny days, tapering off in the evening, just as people return home and are consuming more energy. Unlike solar energy, wind can reliably produce energy in the evening and throughout the night. There are several solutions to this including matching wind with solar power generation, and establishing clean energy microgrids with storage, including the use of electric vehicles for energy availability during peak usage as well as outages.

Offshore wind development can help foster a just transition by tapping into the existing skilled workforce of the oil and gas industries that have experience developing ocean energy infrastructure. Offshore wind development would also create an opportunity to train a new generation of workers to perform highly skilled jobs in manufacturing, construction, maintenance, and operations. According to the Workforce Development Institute, an estimated 74 different occupations are needed for the planning, development, and operation of a single offshore wind farm.

**We support the development of offshore wind power developed in an environmentally responsible way to safeguard marine life while addressing concerns of stakeholders such as the fishing industry.**

**For all of the above reasons, we urge your aye vote when AB 525 is heard in your committee.**

Sincerely,



Ellie Cohen  
Chief Executive Officer,  
The Climate Center

cc: Assemblymember David Chiu