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October 4, 2017

Ohio Power Siting Board
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: 16-1871-EL-BGN: Icebreaker Wind Facility

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board:

The proposed Ice Breaker Wind Project on Lake Erie would position the State of Ohio, and greater Cleveland area, as a leader in the construction and deployment of wind turbines. This project is an unparalleled opportunity to leverage foreign direct investment from Fred. Olsen Renewables to grow local manufacturing and create good-paying jobs for Ohioans.

The report I authored in partnership with Case Western Reserve University, *The Ohio Jobs Project: A Guide to Creating Advanced Energy Jobs*, was created from extensive research and over 100 interviews with local stakeholders and national experts. The Cleveland area is has a strategic advantage in offshore wind manufacturing due to Ohio's density of wind-related manufacturers, local research institutes, and Cleveland's Port. Our research shows that with strategic policies, Ohio can become a hub of innovation and job creation in the offshore wind industry, supporting an annual average of more than 6,600 jobs through 2030.

Many commentators have responded in opposition to the project due to their concern that the turbines will create an "eyesore." However, consider the many transmission and distribution lines that surround us, which our society has grown accustomed to. In the future when the wind industry directly or indirectly employs Ohioans, the sight of a wind turbine will be associated with growth and prosperity.

Please see Chapter 2 of attached report for more information on the potential to grow Ohio's economy and create good-paying jobs for Ohioans.

Sincerely,

Mary K Collins

Mary Collins, MPP
Director, American Jobs Project
Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley

Attachment: *The Ohio Jobs Project: A Guide to Creating Advanced Energy Jobs*

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Technician Fe Date Processed 10/6/17