

Powering New York, Powering America: A Bold Vision for Offshore Wind Leadership

My fellow citizens, we stand at a pivotal moment. The challenges we face—from strengthening our economy to securing our energy future and protecting our environment—demand American solutions, built with American strength and ingenuity. We are a nation that has always met grand challenges head-on, proving that what others achieve, we can not only accomplish but exceed. Think of the space race: a bold vision set forth by a Democratic President, John F. Kennedy, to put a man on the moon. It was a Republican President, Richard Nixon, who ultimately implemented and delivered on that vision, achieving one of the greatest feats in human history. That’s the power of American ingenuity, transcending partisanship for the good of the nation.

In that same spirit of American unity and ambition, as your representative in Congress, I will champion a pragmatic, America-first approach to offshore wind, ensuring it benefits every New Yorker and strengthens our nation.

American Exceptionalism in Energy: We Can Do It, and Do It Better.

For too long, we've watched from the sidelines as nations like the UK and the Netherlands built world-leading offshore wind industries. Let’s look at their success and understand why America is uniquely positioned to surpass them:

1. **Massive Scale & Reliability:** The Hornsea Wind Farms in the UK now power over 2.4 million homes, demonstrating that offshore wind can deliver reliable, large-scale power to a national grid. If the British can build and operate the world’s largest wind farms in challenging North Sea conditions, then American engineers, manufacturers, and skilled tradesmen can certainly build them bigger, better, and more efficiently in our waters.

2. **Proven Longevity and Integration:** The London Array, operational for over a decade, proves the long-term sustainability and seamless integration of offshore wind into existing energy infrastructure. We can learn from their decade of experience to accelerate our own development curve, avoiding their early pitfalls and optimizing our systems from day one.

3. **Addressing Visual Concerns with Technology and Distance:** The Gemini Wind Farm in the Netherlands, located a significant 53 miles off the Dutch coast is a prime example of how these installations can be sited far enough offshore to minimize visual impact for coastal communities. With our expansive coastline, America has the opportunity to lead in strategic siting that respects our treasured scenic views while still harnessing immense power.

This isn't about following; it’s about leading. It’s about taking proven technology, applying American ingenuity, and building an energy future that benefits all of us.

A Pragmatic, Data-Driven Approach

I understand the legitimate concerns raised by our communities on Long Island and by my Republican colleagues regarding offshore wind. My approach is built on transparency, accountability, and a commitment to protecting what makes Long Island special. This isn’t a

“green agenda” imposed from above; it’s a Made-in-America energy solution with a plan to assuage every concern:

Protecting Our Environment and Marine Life (Fish and Whales):

1. Gold-Standard Environmental Safeguards: We will mandate and fund rigorous, independent environmental impact assessments before any project moves forward, building upon best practices from European models like Hornsea and London Array. If they can protect their diverse marine life, we can too.

2. Proactive Mitigation: We will require cutting-edge mitigation technologies and practices, including advanced bubble curtains and seasonal restrictions during critical periods for marine life (like whale migration or fish spawning), as successfully deployed at projects like Gemini.

2. Transparent Monitoring and Adaptive Management: We will fund and empower independent, continuous monitoring of marine mammal activity and fish populations using the latest technology, with all data publicly available. If data shows significant negative impacts, projects must have clear, pre-defined mechanisms for immediate adaptation, modification, or, if necessary, pausing operations until solutions are found. We value our vibrant fisheries and ocean ecosystems, and their protection is non-negotiable.

3. Preserving Our Quality of Life and Scenic Views: Strategic Siting: For all future projects, we will aggressively push for siting strategies that prioritize maximizing distance from shore, learning from the Gemini Wind Farm’s success over 50 miles out. We will explore every technological and regulatory pathway to ensure turbines are beyond the visual horizon wherever feasible.

4. Advanced Visual and Lighting Solutions: We will demand transparent and highly realistic visual impact assessments for every project. Furthermore, we will champion investment in cutting-edge aviation lighting technologies that are minimally visible from shore at night, ensuring safety without light pollution.

5. Ensuring Economic Benefits and Affordable Energy: American Jobs First: My plan focuses on bringing the entire supply chain to the U.S. We will push for aggressive “Buy American” provisions and local content requirements for all components, creating thousands of high-paying, union jobs in manufacturing, port infrastructure, and long-term operations and maintenance right here in New York and across the country. This is about building a new American industry, not just importing equipment.

True Energy Independence and Stable Costs: Offshore wind, once built, operates on a fuel source that costs nothing—the wind. This significantly reduces our reliance on volatile global energy markets and fossil fuels providing long-term energy price stability and enhancing our national security. We will demand transparent cost analyses to ensure these projects deliver value to ratepayers.

Infrastructure Investment: This is an opportunity to revitalize our ports and coastal communities, turning them into hubs for a thriving new industry.

Options and Accountability: A Failsafe for Taxpayers: Data-Driven Decision Making: Every aspect of offshore wind development from siting to operation must be guided by clear, publicly available data and independent scientific analysis. No project should proceed without rigorous vetting.

Community Veto Power on Onshore Infrastructure: While we support offshore development, our communities should have a strong voice in the routing and impact of onshore transmission cables and infrastructure. I will work to empower local municipalities with greater say and ensure fair compensation for any necessary easements or temporary disruptions.

Contingency and Exit Strategies: We must establish clear, publicly defined metrics for project success (economic, environmental, operational). If a project consistently fails to meet these benchmarks, or if unforeseen, unmitigable negative impacts arise, we must have mechanisms in place—including the potential for re-evaluation, modification, or even as a last resort, project termination or alternative solutions—with transparent accountability for any costs or impacts. This ensures taxpayers are never on the hook for failed ventures.

By embracing offshore wind with American ingenuity and a commitment to accountability, we are not just investing in clean energy; we are investing in American jobs, American security, and a future where our nation leads the world in innovation and prosperity. It's time to build a new generation of American energy that is as strong and resilient as our people. Just as America united to reach the moon, we can unite to power our future. Join me in this effort to make New York the epicenter of America's offshore wind leadership, delivering real results for our economy, our environment, and our national strength. Let's power New York and power America into a brighter future.