



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Val Oliver; info@ackrats.com

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Federal Lawsuit Filed to Protect Whales and Stop Industrial Offshore Wind Development

BOSTON – On Wednesday, environmentally concerned citizens filed a federal lawsuit to protect against the industrialization of Massachusetts’s coastal ecosystem that would result from the construction of over 2,000 offshore wind turbines. The turbines are slated to be built off the coast of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, in a nexus of activity of the North Atlantic Right Whale, a critically endangered baleen whale with a population of fewer than 400 specimens (of which there are fewer than 100 breeding females) remaining in the world. Mary Chalke and Valery (Val) Oliver started Nantucket Residents Against Turbines (ACK RATs,) an IRS determined 501(c)(3) organization which is listed as the plaintiff in the federal lawsuit. Mary and Val are residents of Nantucket and spoke about the lawsuit outside of the Statehouse on Wednesday in hopes to educate state leaders. A copy of the lawsuit may be found at <https://www.ackrats.com>.

“Some people oppose the industrial offshore development because it will harm their ocean view. Some people oppose it because it will result in higher electricity rates. Some will oppose it because it will hurt commercial fishing. While those are all valid and true concerns, what motivates us in our opposition to the industrial offshore development is the fact that it will result in the destruction of our ocean floor, its ecosystem, and have a deadly impact to countless bugs, birds, bats, fish and the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. Saving those species, and especially the critically endangered Right Whale is why we are here today,” stated Val Oliver, co-founder of ACK Rats.

“The whales belong to all of us and with fewer than 400, of which there are fewer than 100 breeding females left, each one is worth protecting. The people of Nantucket have a long history with these whales and we have done so much recently to protect this species. It would be a

tragedy to see all of them lost in order to build an industrial offshore development,” stated Mary Chalke, co-founder of ACK Rats.

“The North Atlantic Right Whale cannot handle another stress level. A year ago, many environmental scientists testified to this fact in a public comment letter. What they said a year ago is true today. Our lawsuit hopes to intervene in order to protect our ocean and the important wildlife that inhabits it,” concluded Chalke.

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