



MEDIA ADVISORY

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

BOSTON – On Wednesday, environmentally concerned citizens from Nantucket 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 remaining in the world.

Our friends in Nantucket are not alone. Today we publicly announce the American Coalition for Ocean Protection, or ACOP. Members of beach communities and public policy institutes from North Carolina to Maine have joined together to be watchdogs against misguided federal and state offshore wind policy.

Working independently these groups are finding legitimate concerns that wind projects are moving forward without adequate studies of the potential impacts on the environment, beach and fishing economies, and critical animal species. This informal coalition has been formed to share information, resources, and strategies to protect our beach communities from permanent interference in established patterns of ocean front life. Our concerns are not about renewable energy in general.

We are also pooling our financial resources to support legal challenges such as the lawsuit announced today. The Ocean Environment Legal Defense Fund has been established as a shared resource. A \$75,000 challenge grant has been established to match new tax deductible donations dollar for dollar at www.oceanlegaldefense.org . Below is ***contact information for people ready to speak to the press for our coalition members.

Skipjack, Delaware - Save Our Beach View, www.saveourbeachview.com

Vicki Carmean, Fenwick Island town Mayor, homeowner, vlcarmean@verizon.net

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Bob Stern, former Director of Office of Environmental Compliance, US DOE, drbob232@gmail.com

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Ocean Wind, New Jersey - Protect Our Coast NJ, www.protectourcoastnj.com

Suzanne Hornick, homeowner, ocflooding@gmail.com

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Tony Butch, recreational fisherman, tbutch88@gmail.com

Greg Cudnik, commercial fisherman, fishhead.greg@gmail.com

Vineyard Wind, Massachusetts - Nantucket Residents Against Turbines, www.ackrats.com

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Kitty Hawk Wind, North Carolina - John Locke Foundation, www.johnlocke.org

Brooke Medina, VP of Communications, bmedina@lockehq.org

Mitch Kokai, Senior Political Analyst, bmedina@lockehq.org

Dominion Power, Virginia - Thomas Jefferson Institute, www.ThomasJeffersoninst.org

Stephen D. Haner, Senior Fellow, State and Local Tax Policy, steve@thomasjeffersoninst.org

Great Lakes – Mackinac Center, www.mackinac.org

Jason Hayes, Director, Director of Environmental Policy, jason@jasonhayes.com

Maine – Maine Policy Institute, www.mainepolicy.org

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National wind policy - Wind Action, www.windaction.org

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