



## **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](http://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](http://www.saveourbeachview.com)

Vicki Carmean, Fenwick Island town Mayor, homeowner, [vlcarmean@verizon.net](mailto:vlcarmean@verizon.net)

David Stevenson, Director, Center for Energy & Environment, Caesar Rodney Institute, [DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org](mailto:DavidStevenson@CaesarRodney.org)

Deborah Ryan, NEPA Consultant, [ryanenvironmentalprograms@gmail.com](mailto:ryanenvironmentalprograms@gmail.com)

**Atlantic Shores, New Jersey** - Long Beach Island Coalition for Wind Without Impact, [www.savelbi.org](http://www.savelbi.org)

Bob Stern, former Director of Office of Environmental Compliance, US DOE, [drbob232@gmail.com](mailto:drbob232@gmail.com)

Jim Binder, homeowner, [jbinder6974@yahoo.com](mailto:jbinder6974@yahoo.com)

**Ocean Wind, New Jersey** - Save the Whale NJ, [www.savethewhalenj.com](http://www.savethewhalenj.com)

Tricia Conte, homeowner, [triciaconte4@gmail.com](mailto:triciaconte4@gmail.com)

**Ocean Wind, New Jersey** - Protect Our Coast NJ, [www.protectourcoastnj.com](http://www.protectourcoastnj.com)

Suzanne Hornick, homeowner, [ocflooding@gmail.com](mailto:ocflooding@gmail.com)

Ric Bertsch, homeowner, [ricbertsch@gmail.com](mailto:ricbertsch@gmail.com)

Tony Butch, recreational fisherman, [tbutch88@gmail.com](mailto:tbutch88@gmail.com)

Greg Cudnik, commercial fisherman, [fishhead.greg@gmail.com](mailto:fishhead.greg@gmail.com)

**Vineyard Wind, Massachusetts** - Nantucket Residents Against Turbines, [www.ackrats.com](http://www.ackrats.com)

Mary Chalke, homeowner, [Marychalke1@gmail.com](mailto:Marychalke1@gmail.com) Val Oliver, homeowner, [ackval62@gmail.com](mailto:ackval62@gmail.com)

**Kitty Hawk Wind, North Carolina** - John Locke Foundation, [www.johnlocke.org](http://www.johnlocke.org)

Brooke Medina, VP of Communications, [bmedina@lockehq.org](mailto:bmedina@lockehq.org)

Mitch Kokai, Senior Political Analyst, [bmedina@lockehq.org](mailto:bmedina@lockehq.org)

**Dominion Power, Virginia** - Thomas Jefferson Institute, [www.ThomasJeffersoninst.org](http://www.ThomasJeffersoninst.org)

Stephen D. Haner, Senior Fellow, State and Local Tax Policy, [steve@thomasjeffersoninst.org](mailto:steve@thomasjeffersoninst.org)

**Great Lakes** – Mackinac Center, [www.mackinac.org](http://www.mackinac.org)

Jason Hayes, Director, Director of Environmental Policy, [jason@jasonhayes.com](mailto:jason@jasonhayes.com)

**Maine** – Maine Policy Institute, [www.mainepolicy.org](http://www.mainepolicy.org)

Matthew Gagnon, Chief Executive Officer, [mgagnon@mainepolicy.org](mailto:mgagnon@mainepolicy.org)

**National wind policy** - Wind Action, [www.windaction.org](http://www.windaction.org)

Lisa Linowes, President, [llinowes@windaction.org](mailto:llinowes@windaction.org)