

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

May 31, 2012

The Honorable David Danielson  
Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Danielson:

We are writing in support of the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation's (LEEDCo) application for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Offshore Wind Advanced Technology Demonstration (DE-FOA-0000410) grant program. This project's innovative design and siting could help develop the Great Lakes' considerable potential for offshore wind development.

LEEDCo is a regional public-private, non-profit corporation that has worked to build wind turbines in Lake Erie – helping stimulate Ohio's offshore freshwater wind industry. LEEDCo's project, "Icebreaker," is an advanced prototype project that would utilize innovative construction techniques and operations methodologies to lower the cost of offshore wind energy. Coupled with the unique siting characteristics – Lake Erie's shallow depth; freshwater siting; and proximity to advanced manufacturing in the component manufacturing supply for wind— this program has the potential to expand the U.S. wind energy production and development.

The project's success is bolstered by its collaborative nature. Working with state and federal regulators, LEEDCo completed most of the required environmental studies (avian, bat, historical and fisheries) and also the geotechnical work on Lake Erie soils. Drawing upon significant local support from the local governments of four lakefront counties - Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Lake, and Lorain - and the City of Cleveland, has bolstered the program's support which has raised \$5 million in funds from private and public sources.

Lake Erie also provides unique characteristics for wind energy demonstration; it is shallow, experiences ice in the winter months, and is adjacent to major Midwestern population centers. We believe geographic diversity must play an important role in the selection process and that as the first proposed freshwater project in North America it is particularly deserving of selection.

We respectfully request that you provide LEEDCo's proposal full and fair consideration.

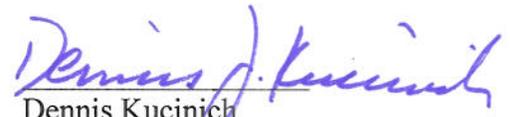
Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



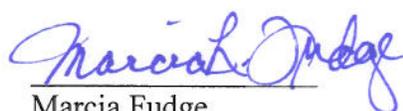
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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