



February 18, 2020

Chairman Kumar P. Barve
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 313 Position - Support

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of U.S. Wind, Maryland's first Offshore Wind developer, we urge you to support HB 313, Public-Private Partnership Agreements - Minority Business Enterprise Program. While this legislation does not directly impact U.S. Wind, as we are not in a public-private partnership, we strongly support the promotion of MBE in the state of Maryland. MBEs deserve incentives for the opportunity to work on infrastructure projects improving Maryland.

U.S. Wind is committed to ensuring the use of MBEs in our projects. With respect to developing a diverse workforce, U.S. Wind is committed to meeting the requirements set forth in our agreement with the Public Service Commission. We are working hard to identify the specific job requirements and certifications individuals will need to compete for opportunities under several key contracts, including the turbine supply, Operations and Maintenance contracts, and the construction phase of our project.

We recognize that not all companies will do this outreach and hire MBEs unless you as lawmakers require or incentivize them to do so, thus we support this bill and respectfully urge a favorable vote on HB 313.

Thank you and the Committee for your leadership and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Salvo Vitale".

Salvo Vitale
Country Manager