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March 3, 2009

Mr. Ken Salazar
United States Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7229
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing to express my strong support for the offshore wind energy project proposed by Cape Wind Associates, LLC.

Cape Wind has proposed to build 130 wind turbines in federal waters within Nantucket Sound. This project would be the first offshore wind facility in the United States, and as of now it would be the largest offshore wind energy installation in the world. With a total installed capacity of 454 megawatts, these turbines will generate enough electricity for more than 100,000 homes, meeting approximately 75 percent of the electricity needs of Cape Cod. The electricity generated by this project will displace power that would otherwise come from fossil-fuel burning plants, and Cape Wind has estimated that this displacement will reduce "conventional" pollutants such as sulfur dioxide by 802 tons per year and nitrogen oxides by 497 tons per year. Perhaps more importantly, the project is estimated to reduce carbon dioxide, a key greenhouse gas, by 733,876 tons per year, which is the equivalent of taking 175,000 automobiles off the road.

This project is a vital element of our national commitment to reduce greenhouse gases and to ensure that the United States is at the forefront of the world's transition to a clean energy economy. Scientists have estimated that in order to reverse the effects of climate change brought on by greenhouse gas emissions, we must immediately and sharply decrease those emissions, and ultimately reduce them 80 percent by 2050. Whatever means are ultimately adopted to achieve greenhouse gas reductions, a large and expeditious ramp-up of renewable energy from wind and other sources will be a critical component.

The Cape Wind project would also be a catalyst for offshore wind energy. According to a U.S. Department of Energy report the nation could meet 20 percent of its electricity needs from wind by the year 2030. That scenario assumes that 54,000 megawatts will be delivered from offshore sources. Up to 30,000 jobs would be created meeting this goal.

The project is also critical for the Commonwealth to meet our own clean energy goals. In 2008, the Massachusetts Legislature enacted the Global Warming Solutions Act, which mandates that by 2020 the Commonwealth reduce its greenhouse gas emissions at least 10 percent below 1990 levels. The Legislature also enacted comprehensive energy legislation that requires utility companies in Massachusetts to purchase at least 15 percent of their power supply from renewable energy generators by 2020. In order to meet these requirements, I have recently announced the ambitious goal of 2,000 megawatts of installed wind power by 2020, which would represent 10 percent of the Commonwealth's energy supply. It will be difficult to meet these targets without the 450 megawatts of clean energy from Cape Wind.

The project has gone through a long, comprehensive and thorough environmental review, at both the state and federal level. Commencing in 2001, this review required Cape Wind to produce thousands of pages of analysis of the project impact on fisheries, birds, commerce, navigation, historic resources, and ocean views. These analyses have been reviewed and commented upon by a myriad of state and federal agencies, environmental groups, and members of the public. Both the Commonwealth's Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the

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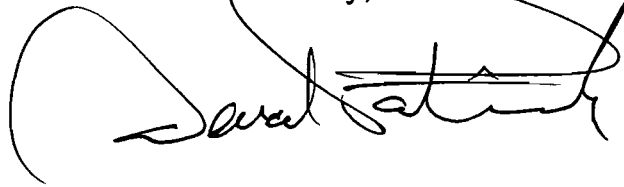
federal Minerals Management Service have concluded that the adverse environmental impacts of the project are, for the most part, negligible or minor. As I understand it, where there are significant impacts, Cape Wind has mitigated them with specific and enforceable commitments.

On the federal level, I understand that the project needs final approval and a lease from the Minerals Management Service, as well as several approvals from the Corps. I urge prompt action on these permits, so that Cape Wind can move forward.

There are thoughtful views on both sides of the Cape Wind question. I acknowledge and respect many of the arguments in opposition. But on balance I believe Cape Wind is right for Massachusetts and right for America.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Salazar", written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and cursive.