UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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February 3, 2023

Mr. Gregory Lampman NYSERDA Offshore Wind Program Director 17 Columbus Circle Albany, NY 12203

## Re: UWUA Support for Community Offshore Wind

Dear Mr. Lampman,

Community Offshore Wind, a joint venture between RWE Renewables and National Grid, has responded to NYSERDA's 2022 Request for Proposals for procuring Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (ORECs) to deliver clean energy to the state of New York. On behalf of the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), representing around 45,000 members in the United States, I write to support the project and believe Community Offshore Wind will deliver clean energy to the Northeast efficiently, reliably, and safely while creating good union career opportunities for New Yorkers.

Community Offshore Wind (COSW) has the collective experience for executing successful large infrastructure and clean energy projects, but also the familiarity with the people who live and work in New York. RWE is one of the world's leading companies in offshore wind and has constructed 18 wind farms. National Grid serves over 20 million people throughout the Northeast, including New York, and has developed large-scale infrastructure projects across the US and UK. Given the joint venture's experience in generation and transmission locally, they are uniquely qualified to help address the just transition of displaced workers as we move towards the clean energy economy.

Since February 2022's NY Bight lease sale, the joint venture continues to be present throughout communities in New York and has made an impact. Stakeholders are collaborating with organized labor, education, and workforce training facilities on how to build a local and diverse workforce and provide individuals with the education and training necessary to have family-supporting careers. Already, the COSW team has secured a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NYS Building Trades for a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on the construction of the project and the related manufacturing facility construction needs. Additionally, COSW demonstrates intentions to unionize the operations and maintenance, and manufacturing sectors by pursuing a Labor Peace Agreement (LPA) with Climate Jobs NY and appropriate labor organizations.

UWUA has demonstrated success through our Power 4 America (P4A) training program for the emerging renewables sector by building an onshore wind apprenticeship program in Michigan. In the future, the UWUA looks forward to collaborating, attending, and creating awareness of COSW, the good union jobs expected from its development, and the offshore wind applications to integrate into our existing training programs.

COSW is working with local suppliers and minority-owned businesses to create a secure and high-road regional supply chain. The team is also committed to utilizing union shops and working with local non-profit organizations to provide educational, economic, and environmental benefits to underserved communities.

The project will sit on the largest parcel in the New York Bight and has the potential to host 3 GW of capacity, enough to power over one million homes. The project will help New York State meet the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which has set a target that 70 percent of the state's electricity be produced from renewable resources by 2030.

I express my support for Community Offshore Wind's proposal to NYSERDA to provide clean energy from offshore wind to the state of New York.

Sincerely,

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James T. Slevin National President Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO