



Randall Luthi
President

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May 13, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Joe Manchin
Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin and Senators Cassidy and Schatz:

Thank you for bringing the Offshore Wind for Territories Act (S 499) for a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. The National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) gives our strongest support for this legislation expanding the jurisdiction of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to the waters off of the territories of the United States. This is a change to American law that is long overdue.

For too long, the territories have been neglected in this because no federal agency actually has the authority for overseeing energy, including renewable energy, and mineral development in the EEZ offshore. In addition, the Federal government is unable to evaluate potential resources in conjunction with the territorial governments for potential resources until OCSLA is extended to these areas. Clarifying the Secretary of the Interior's authority and responsibility under OCSLA will provide the support and opportunity for a comprehensive process for planning and developing offshore energy in coordination with the territories.

America's offshore energy industries are ready to contribute to the recovery and rebuilding of Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For example, offshore wind can potentially provide significant investment into the recovery process by providing both alternative generation and significant investment in onshore infrastructure. This private investment, only made possible through sound public planning by the Department of the Interior in conjunction with the territorial government, can both spur economic recovery and also offset federal recovery investment. In addition, floating wind development provides a tremendous opportunity for the United States Navy to meet its energy requirements as we prepare to expand our nation's military footprint on Guam.

Simply stated, we thank you for your work on this legislation and urge all members of the Committee and eventually all of Congress to strongly support this legislation. Passage of this legislation will help America's offshore industries to bring jobs, investment and energy security to the process of building a better tomorrow for the territories and our nations citizens who live there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randall Luthi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randall Luthi
President