



June 7, 2019

The Honorable Bill Keating
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
The Honorable Rob Bishop
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Congressman Keating, Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop,

I want to share the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) support for the Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunities Act (H.R. 3068). We agree with the sponsors of this legislation that the coming offshore wind energy boom in the U.S. will need a skilled workforce trained and capable of operating in the unique offshore environment. Throughout the United States there are workers who are skilled, but they will require specific training and expertise to work offshore supporting the rapidly expanding wind industry.

Although there are existing domestic businesses already engaged in offshore wind development, the U.S. will need thousands of skilled new workers over the next decade, both onshore and offshore, to make a thriving offshore wind industry a reality. As a recent report from the University of Delaware Special Initiative on Offshore Wind indicates, we can expect \$70 billion in capital expenditures as the offshore wind industry expands over the next. By establishing a federal grant program to assist colleges, universities, unions and nonprofits to develop programs, training and internships, we can advance the development of a skilled offshore wind workforce.

Industry investment in offshore wind leases is already approaching nearly a half billion dollars to the federal treasury and future lease sales will only add to this total. By planning to direct some of those federal revenues back to workforce training, as envisioned by this legislation, we can grow a skilled American offshore wind workforce, making the coming offshore wind boom an economic and jobs boom for our nation.

NOIA's membership believes strongly in the importance of offshore energy development in America and has been particularly focused on expanding the wind industry in the United States. Simply stated, we thank you for your work on this legislation and urge all members of the Committee and eventually all of Congress to support this legislation. Passage of this legislation will help America's offshore industries to bring jobs, investment and energy to the process of building a better tomorrow for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Luthi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Randall Luthi
President