



Erik G. Milito
President

**NATIONAL
OCEAN
INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION**

1120 G Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Tel 202-347-6900
Fax 202-347-8650
www.noia.org

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The Honorable Bill Keating
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
The Honorable Rob Bishop
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Keating, Chairman Grijalva, and Ranking Member Bishop,

I write on behalf of the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) in *strong* support of the Offshore Wind Jobs and Opportunities Act (H.R. 3068). As you are aware, the offshore wind energy industry is at the beginning of what many predict will be a tremendous expansion. This growth will create jobs across the United States as some \$70 billion¹ in new capital expenditures enter the market over the next decade. However, this growth will only be possible with skilled labor ready to rise to the challenges and opportunities created by a new sector in offshore energy.

NOIA's membership includes domestic businesses already working to build new offshore wind farms. However, the U.S. will need *thousands* of new workers in the next decade to help this budding industry thrive. By establishing a federal grant program to assist colleges, universities, unions, and non-profits to develop programs, training, and internships, we can ensure that American workers are ready to fill these openings as they come about.

We of course respect concerns about federal investments in an era of high national debt. However, industry investment in offshore wind leases is already approaching nearly a half a billion dollars to the U.S. treasury. This, of course, does not count all the additional tax revenue a rapidly-expanding offshore wind industry will bring. By deploying a sliver of this new money entering federal coffers back into American communities to help fuel the growth, we are confident the offshore wind industry will pay dividends for even Americans who live far from the ocean.

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 this country. Simply stated, we thank you for your work on this legislation and urge all members of this Committee and eventually all of Congress to support this legislation. Passage will help America's offshore industries to bring jobs, investment, and energy to the process of building a better tomorrow for everyone.

Sincerely,

Erik Milito
President

¹. Woods, B. (2019, December 13). US has only one offshore wind energy farm, but a \$70 billion market is on the way. CNBC.