



**Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy  
In support of H3302 An Act to promote offshore wind energy and renewables  
and S2155 An Act relative to enhancing reliability of renewable resources in the  
Commonwealth  
By Launa Zimmaro, LWVMA Climate Change and Energy Specialist  
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The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts supports H3302 and S2155 as crucial to achieving mandated renewable energy and emissions reductions targets as we face an insistent and accelerating climate crisis. The winds off our coastline offer one of the most powerful and efficient renewable energy resources available to coastal regions, supported by the latest technology for deployment of cost-effective, environmentally-safe and aesthetic offshore wind power generation.<sup>1</sup> We are in the position of using nature in the service of nature and, in the process, ourselves.

Society is at a turning point. In New England, it is anticipated that up to one-third of existing nuclear and fossil-fuel fired power plants will close over the next decade. Offshore wind power is readily available to help fill the power gap and carry us through this necessary transition, while boosting our region's renewable energy industry and economy. The decreasing cost of offshore wind generation, coupled with recent, federal tax incentives, is expected to result in affordable power and stable rates for ratepayers. Additionally, the wind industry is projected to generate significant revenue for the state. The current RFP for offshore wind "includes a requirement that the next contract be more favorable to Massachusetts ratepayers than the last offshore wind contract and a new National Grid proposal to have DPU lower the maximum allowed price of the power by about 10 percent."<sup>2</sup>

In addition to authorizing additional offshore wind procurements, **H3302** also:

- requires that contractors adhere to prevailing wage and labor laws;
- supports minority business involvement by requiring diversity and inclusion plans in contracts with reporting on results;
- promotes private, institutional and municipal procurements;
- includes environmental protections to avoid, mitigate and minimize environmental impacts, with monitoring requirements.

**S2155** would amend state law (SL 2008: 169) to:

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<sup>1</sup> [New Offshore Wind Turbine Can Power a Home for a Day in Just 7 Seconds](#): John Rogers, Union of Concerned Scientists. 12/03/2020.

<sup>2</sup> [WBUR Earthwhile](#): Colin Young, State House News. 05/07/2021.



- require energy distributors to solicit proposals for energy storage;
- require the Department of Energy Resources and distributors to jointly propose a timetable;
- set a target for gigawatt capacity;
- set procedures for soliciting/declining proposals;
- require ongoing solicitations until gigawatt capacity target is reached;
- create a selection committee and describe membership criteria;
- require an independent evaluator of bids;
- require distributor and winning bidder co-operation.

Offshore wind is one of the most plentiful natural energy sources we have for meeting newly mandated emissions targets and addressing the urgency of the climate crisis confronting us. The New England coast is ideally suited for this industry due to its abundance of offshore wind and shallow waters that support turbine installations. We can harness the wind to help us meet the existential challenge of climate change. To paraphrase the old Irish blessing, “May the wind forever be at our backs”; we need all the help we can get.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, urges this Committee to give its full support to passage of H3302 and S2155.

Thank you for your consideration.