



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

JUN 14 2019

The Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor of Maine
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your state's participation in a Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to facilitate commercial renewable energy leasing and development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in that region.

This effort was set in motion by a request from New Hampshire Governor Sununu that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) establish an intergovernmental renewable energy task force for renewable energy leasing and development offshore New Hampshire. Given that such activities would affect natural, socioeconomic, and cultural resources shared by neighboring states, BOEM recommends the establishment of a Gulf of Maine regional task force that also includes Maine and Massachusetts governmental entities (both state and local), in addition to interested Federal agencies and tribes. BOEM has recently transitioned to a regional task force model for improved collaboration on offshore wind planning and development issues on the OCS offshore three different regions: Rhode Island and Massachusetts, the New York Bight, and the Carolinas.

BOEM has previously worked with the Maine Governor's Office to coordinate offshore renewable energy leasing and development on the OCS off the coast of Maine. This early collaboration resulted in the formation of the Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force in 2010, four task force meetings from 2010 to 2012, and BOEM's issuance of a Request for Interest following receipt of a request for an OCS lease offshore Maine. In 2012, BOEM also convened a public information session in Maine before the applicant ultimately withdrew its lease request.

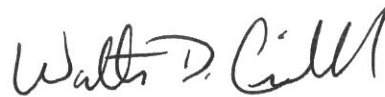
BOEM would like to resume its working relationship with Maine via the establishment of a Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. To that end, BOEM requests that the Governor's Office identify a primary point of contact for the State of Maine to serve on the task force, and provide the designee's contact information for future coordination. The designee would be able to represent your interests and coordinate Maine state agency input to BOEM.

BOEM hopes you will accept this invitation to participate in a regional task force in the Gulf of Maine. BOEM will prepare a draft charter outlining the purpose of the task force, proposed membership, and planned tasks to share with your designated point of contact and the designated points of contact in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

If you would find it beneficial, BOEM representatives are available to meet with your staff to provide an overview and update regarding its renewable energy leasing program. If you would like to arrange such a meeting, or have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Meredith Lilley in BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs at meredith.lilley@boem.gov or at (703) 787-1037.

BOEM looks forward to Maine's input, advice, and participation as we plan for commercial renewable energy leasing and development on the OCS offshore the State, and within the Gulf of Maine generally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter D. Cruickshank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Walter D. Cruickshank
Acting Director