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WOMEN'S ISSUES

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



SENATOR

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May 21, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

I write to you today with deep respect for your office and its role in shaping the future of our nation's energy policy. As a proud representative of the communities directly impacted by the proposed Empire Wind 1 project, I must express strong opposition to its continuation and deep concern over the sudden reversal in allowing this project to proceed.

I respectfully request that this project be paused and reviewed to assess several areas of concern, including, but not limited to, the issues outlined herein:

- Following the recent tragic accidents involving the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City and Francis Scott Key Bridge in Maryland, there is now a greater concern over the effect this project will have on shipping lanes and commerce including potential waterway accidents with the turbines themselves, which would have far reaching economic impacts.
- Concerns that these wind turbines have the potential to interfere with radar systems, thereby possibly adversely impacting air traffic for at least three major airports in the New York City area, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.
- The potentially devastating impact the construction, operation, and maintenance of these wind turbines will have on marine life, particularly marine mammals, as well as on commercial fishing operations, according to Equinor's own documentation filed with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- I witnessed firsthand that community hearings during the Article VII process were conducted without legitimate input from concerned residents.

During my time in the New York State Senate, I have consistently been outspoken about the concerns of my community regarding this project. Equinor's pattern of limited transparency, failure to address community concerns, and frequent changes to project plans without sufficient public input or notification, reflects a lack of good faith and make it clear that this is the wrong company to undertake such a project. This approach has eroded trust and left many residents feeling outraged and ignored. This is not how a *responsible* energy partner should operate, particularly one entrusted with a project of this magnitude and environmental significance.

While I support a responsible transition to a cleaner, more diverse array of energy sources and recognize the importance of long-term sustainability, Equinor's Empire Wind 1 project has consistently raised serious concerns across our communities.

I respectfully urge the Department of the Interior to pause further advancement of the Empire Wind 1 project to ensure there is a thorough review of Equinor's conduct and commitments, and until meaningful community engagement is achieved.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you or a member of your staff to discuss this project further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" being the most prominent.

Patricia M. Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
State Senator, District 9

CC: The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Laura Gillen
The Honorable Lee Zeldin