



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

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Ranking Republican Member

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December 9, 2008

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

Admiral Thad Allen, USCG
Commandant US Coast Guard
2100 Second Street SW
Washington DC 20593

Dear Admiral Allen,

I am writing to follow-up on my letter of September 12, 2008, regarding the Cape Wind Project. In October Sector Southeast New England contracted for an independent study "on how the wind turbine generators may impact marine radar systems and navigation on vessels operating in the area." I have learned that the Commander of Sector Southeast New England briefed interested stakeholders on the results of the study on Friday, December 5th, with comments due by Monday, December 8th. But, the Sector had yet to receive the completed study, and has not release the study for public review as I requested in my previous communications with you and the Secretary of the Department of Interior, Mr. Kempthorne, on September 24, 2008. Further, I understand that the Sector Commander intends to make his recommendations by next Monday, December 15th.

I am again requesting that the Coast Guard delay any recommendation to the Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service until such time as 1) the report is completed, 2) the report is publically available to all interested parties, and 3) that the public has a minimum of 60 days to review and comment on the study.

Given that any action taken on this project will set a precedent for all future offshore renewable energy projects, I am considering holding hearings on the issue to ensure that public and marine safety issues are addressed in the process of permitting offshore alternative energy project.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or my staff, should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

James L. Oberstar

Admiral Thad Allen

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pc: The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Randall Luthi
Director, Minerals Management Service
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