

Resolution No.: 17-09
Introduced: December 7, 2010
Adopted: December 14, 2010

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Leventhal, Berliner and Elrich

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Offshore Wind Turbines for the Production of Clean Energy

Background

1. On November 8, 2010, Governor Martin O'Malley announced that the federal government's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement was issuing a Request for Interest (RFI) in constructing wind turbines in federal waters off the State of Maryland's Atlantic coast. The RFI may be found in the Federal Register, Vol. 75, no. 216, Tuesday, November 9, 2010, page 68824.
2. Offshore wind power could supply up to one third of the Mid Atlantic states' electric load with zero emissions.
3. The Maryland Energy Administration has found that offshore wind power has the highest potential for Maryland to generate clean energy and it is the only way that the state can meet its renewable portfolio standard of 20 percent clean electricity by 2022.
4. Montgomery County has pioneered the purchase of wind power for local government use. The county currently procures 25 percent of its total electricity load from wind power. The county's wind power buying consortium is the 5th largest local government purchaser of clean energy in the United States.
5. A twenty-five year contract that satisfies a modest portion of each large electricity supplier's current total power supply with offshore wind power would lock in stable energy prices over that period and create much-needed jobs for the construction, operations, and maintenance of offshore windmills.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The County Council congratulates Governor O'Malley and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement for their leadership in promoting offshore wind turbines.
2. The County Council further encourages energy producers to respond to the Request for Interest expressing interest in obtaining a commercial lease for an offshore wind energy project by January 10, 2011.
3. The County Council further encourages the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation in 2011 that requires the Public Service Commission to direct public utilities to enter into long-term contracts for offshore wind power.
4. Such legislation should set up a process for utilities to offer requests for offshore wind power proposals and to negotiate contracts for offshore wind electric generation, and should further direct the Public Service Commission to consider long-term price stability, environmental and public health benefits, and other factors when determining whether to approve long-term contracts.

This is a correct copy of Council action



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council