**The Honorable Mark Warner (VA)**

Dear Senator Warner,

As a leading environmental conservation and restoration organization in Virginia's 2nd District, Lynnhaven River NOW is writing to urge you to contact the Trump Administration and press for the immediate resumption of federal approvals and construction activity for *all* U.S. offshore wind projects – including Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW).

On **December 22–23, 2025**, the U.S. Department of the Interior (through BOEM) issued a **90-day suspension** affecting five major offshore wind projects under construction on the East Coast, including **CVOW off Virginia Beach**, citing national security concerns tied to **recent classified Defense Department assessments**. Dominion has challenged the suspension in federal court, and local reporting indicates the judge is reviewing classified information the Administration used to support the halt.

Aside from the merits of the national security questions, a blanket stop-work order is a direct threat to **energy security –** because it reduces **reliability** and raises **costs** at the exact moment Virginia and the nation are facing rapid load growth (including data centers) and major grid-stability challenges.

## Offshore wind supports reliability and energy security – especially when paired with other clean resources

Offshore wind strengthens reliability by complementing solar production and battery storage: analyses of offshore wind's grid contribution note that it tends to produce more during **evening and nighttime hours**, helping fill the hours when solar output declines and the system is often stressed. This diversification also reduces over-reliance on any single fuel supply chain – particularly natural gas, where price spikes and pipeline constraints can drive volatility.

## Clean energy is among the lowest-cost and fastest-to-deploy new generation

Lazard's **2025 LCOE+ (Version 18.0)** finds that, even on an unsubsidized basis, **renewables remain the most cost-competitive form of new generation** and "stand out as both the **lowest-cost** and **quickest-to-deploy** generation resource" in today's high-demand environment. The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) similarly summarizes that Virginia's clean energy buildout can deliver a "healthy, reliable, and

affordable" system that improves "energy freedom and security," and describes offshore wind as an "important…clean and affordable source of generation."

### CVOW is an energy-security and affordability asset for Virginia Beach and the district you represent

CVOW is not speculative – it is well underway, designed for grid needs, and anchored in Hampton Roads. Dominion states CVOW is a **2.6-GW** project expected to be completed in **2026**, capable of powering **up to 660,000 homes**, and delivering **up to 9.5 million MWh/year** of clean electricity. Dominion also projects **$3 billion in expected fuel savings for customers during the project's first decade of operations**, reflecting the value of adding generation that does not depend on fuel purchases.

Economically, Dominion reports CVOW is credited with **2,000 direct and indirect jobs** and **$2 billion in economic activity. Separately**, Dominion cites a Hampton Roads Alliance economic-impact analysis estimating the **seven-year impact** at roughly **$57 million in pay and benefits**, **$143 million in economic output**, and **$5 million in state and local tax revenue**.

Since the December 22nd suspension was issued, Dominion has lost an estimated **$5 million per day** – time is literally money in this case, and Virginians who helped foot the cost of this first-of-its-kind project are the ones who bear the greatest burden of this work stoppage.

Dominion has also emphasized that CVOW has been developed over more than a decade **in coordination with the military** and is "essential for national security," while meeting rapidly growing demand.

## Requested action

I respectfully ask that you:

1. **Contact the White House, the Department of the Interior (Secretary Doug Burgum), and the Department of Defense** to urge an immediate reversal of the stop-work order and the resumption of offshore wind construction nationwide.
2. Request a **prompt classified briefing** for Virginia's delegation on the specific risk claims and the mitigation pathways available, consistent with what multiple governors have requested.
3. Encourage the Administration to pursue **targeted, technical mitigation** (where needed) rather than broad suspensions – so we can protect national security *and* keep critical generation projects on track for reliability and affordability.

Virginia Beach – and the nation – cannot afford policy-driven uncertainty that delays power supply, threatens grid reliability, and increases costs for families and businesses. I would welcome the opportunity to share the underlying SELC and Lazard materials and to connect your office with local stakeholders supporting a secure, reliable, and affordable energy mix.

Sincerely,

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