



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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October 24, 2024

Town of Barnstable
Town Council
367 Main Street, 2nd floor
Hyannis, MA 02601

Re: Offshore Wind Transmission Cable Siting Study

Dear President Penn and Members of the Town Council,

I am writing to provide the public and members of the Council with an important update regarding the ongoing discussions about the proposed offshore wind transmission cable landing in Barnstable. As your State Representative, I have been actively engaged with the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy and DOER to ensure that the voices of my constituents are heard, and I want to highlight recent developments from the legislature that will help re-shape this conversation.

Today, Section 116(c) of the Clean Energy and Climate Conference report was passed in informal session, requiring the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to conduct a thorough review of existing offshore wind transmission plans. This review includes the authorization of surplus interconnection service and opens up new possibilities for alternative landing sites and other more suitable locations on Cape Cod. This is a direct response to the concerns I have raised on our community's behalf and effectively halts any additional cable deployment in Barnstable until after DOER's study is complete and reviewed by the Legislature.

I have worked closely with Chairman Jeffrey Roy to ensure that Barnstable's needs are included in this broader review. The goal is to ensure that no one community, like ours, bears an unfair burden and that all options are considered before any more decisions are made.

While I understand there are differing and emotional viewpoints, progress happens through thoughtful collaboration and the legislative process. This study is a major step toward a balanced solution—one that protects our environment, supports renewable energy goals, and preserves Cape Cod's unique character.

I encourage the Council to engage constructively in this process and allow the legislative review to help guide it toward the best outcomes for Barnstable.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. As your State Representative, I look forward to continuing my work with you, state agencies, and local stakeholders to ensure Barnstable remains an active participant in shaping a fair and responsible future for our region.

Sincerely,

Representative Kip A. Diggs