

1 10/11/2023 - Empire Offshore Wind, LLC - 22-T-0346

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 22-T-0346 - Application of Empire Offshore
5 Wind, LLC. For a Certificate of Environmental
6 Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction
7 of Approximately Twelve Miles of Transmission Line
8 from the Boundary of New York State Territorial
9 Waters to a Point of Interconnection in the Town
10 of Hempstead, Nassau County.

11 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

12 DATE: October 11, 2023 at 2:05 p.m.

13 LOCATION: 1 Westchester
14 Long Beach City Hall
15 Long Beach, New York

16 BEFORE: ALJ ASHLEY MORENO
17 ALJ TARA KERSEY
18 COMMISSIONER DIANE BURMAN
19

20
21 Reported by Hannah Belair
22
23
24
25

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2 (The hearing commenced at 2:05 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay. I call Case 22-
4 T-0346 application of Empire Offshore Wind, L.L.C.,
5 for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and
6 Public Need for the Construction of approximately 12
7 miles of transmission lines from the boundary of New
8 York State Territorial Waters to a point of
9 interconnection in the Town of Hempstead, Nassau
10 County.

11 Good afternoon, everyone and welcome.
12 We are here today for a public statement hearing that
13 was noticed on September 20th, 2023. This public
14 statement hearing concerns the proposal of Empire
15 Offshore Wind, L.L.C. and E.W. Offshore Wind
16 Transport Corporation's proposal to construct,
17 operate and maintain the New York portion of the
18 transmission facilities required to interconnect
19 Empire Offshore Winds proposed Empire Wind 2 Offshore
20 Wind generating facility to be located within the
21 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to a point of
22 interconnection with the New York State transmission
23 system located at an expansion of the Barrett 138
24 kilovolt substation that is located in Oceanside in
25 the Town of Hempstead, New York.

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2 My name is Ashley Moreno. I am an
3 Administrative Law Judge for the Department of Public
4 Service. With me today is Administrative Law Judge
5 Tara Kersey, also from the department. And together
6 we are responsible for presiding over the hearings in
7 this case and the development of a complete record.

8 We may also make recommendations to
9 the New York State Public Service Commission which is
10 the ultimate decision maker in this case. And we are
11 fortunate today to also have with us Commissioner
12 Diane Burman. And Commissioner Burman, would you
13 like to say anything?

14 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Hello. My name
15 is Commissioner Diane Burman. I've been on the
16 commission 10 years. Actually I am originally from
17 Long Island, and I still have a significant family
18 presence here in Long Island. I came today as a
19 listener. It's very important to me to be at as many
20 public statements as I can, especially ones that have
21 a community engagement.

22 My job really is to listen and to
23 bring back what I hear to my fellow Commissioners. I
24 appreciate all of you who are here and look forward
25 to your comments and thank you very much.

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. As some of
3 you may have attended the previous information forum
4 Empire Offshore Wind and Empire Offshore Wind
5 Transport Corporation, who I will refer to as the
6 applicants. Their proposal is being reviewed
7 pursuant to Article 7 of the New York State Public
8 Service Law.

9 Prior to any construction, the
10 applicants must first obtain what is called a
11 Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public
12 Need from the Public Service Commission for the New
13 York portion of the transmission facility. When the
14 case is eventually brought before the Commission for
15 a decision, the Commission may choose to adopt,
16 reject, or modify the applicant's proposal.

17 The Commission will make its decision
18 based on the entirety of the record that is developed
19 in this proceeding which includes the statements that
20 you will make here today. I will also note that the
21 Offshore Wind Facility is not reviewed as part of
22 this process. So the wind facility itself is being
23 reviewed and considered by the federal government.

24 Only the New York portion of the
25 transmission facility is being considered in this

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2 proceeding by the Commission. So our hearing today
3 is to hear from you. Our -- we have the ultimate
4 decision maker as I mentioned is the Public Service
5 Commission. The Commission consists of seven
6 members, the Chairperson, Rory Christian and the
7 Commissioners including Diane Burman, James Alesi,
8 Tracy Edwards, John Howard, David Valesky, and John
9 Maggiore.

10 So I'll just explain what the process
11 is for this event. Again, the purpose of the hearing
12 is to hear from you and to give an opportunity for
13 you to give us your thoughts on the proposal that's
14 being considered by the Commission. The statements
15 that you make today will become part of the case
16 record.

17 We have a court reporter here with us
18 today who will prepare a transcript of the hearing
19 which will be included in the official case record
20 for this proceeding, so that it can be considered by
21 all members of the Commission. And when the
22 transcript is ready, it will be available for viewing
23 on the New York State Department of Public Service
24 website.

25 And you can view it there at your

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2 leisure if you care to. This hearing is not a
3 question and answer session and it's -- it's really a
4 forum to hear from you. So I would also stress that
5 this is not your only opportunity for comment. If
6 you do not wish to make a comment here today, but you
7 would like your views included in the record there
8 are a variety of other ways that you can do that.

9 You can submit comments to the
10 department's website by regular mail or by phone.
11 And regardless of how you do submit your comments,
12 they all will be given equal weight regardless of how
13 they're submitted. And your comments will be
14 considered throughout this proceeding.

15 So the process today, if you would
16 like to make a statement here, please fill out a
17 registration card. We have them at the table right
18 outside the doors with our Public Service Outreach
19 staff. I will call speakers up one by one using the
20 cards. Please speak slowly and clearly so our court
21 reporter can accurately capture your statement for
22 the record.

23 To the extent that you do have a
24 lengthy written statement, I would ask that you
25 please try to summarize it orally and then submit the

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2 full statement to us. As you can see, we have a -- a
3 full room here today, we do want to hear from as many
4 of you as possible, so we are also asking that you
5 please try to keep it within a few minutes, maybe a
6 three minute time frame just so that we can give
7 others the opportunity to make their statement as
8 well.

9 And finally, before we begin, I would
10 just ask that everyone be respectful of today's
11 speakers. We recognize that there are a lot of
12 viewpoints about this project. This event is being
13 held to hear from you and to give you the opportunity
14 to be heard. So please do not interrupt the speakers
15 and please do not -- if you could hold your applause
16 for each other, we appreciate your comments, but we
17 would -- we do have a lot of people here that want to
18 make comments, so it does take up some time.

19 So if you could do that, we would
20 appreciate it. Also, to the extent that you have a
21 cell phone with you today, if you could put that on
22 silent mode, so that we're not interrupting the
23 speakers that would be appreciated. So with that our
24 first speaker is Elizabeth Treston. And I apologize.
25 If you could come up to the podium we have here at

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2 the front, there's a microphone so we can ensure to
3 hear your comments.

4 MS. TRESTON: Thank you.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Sorry, I'll just stand
6 over here. I want to make sure I can see you.

7 MS. TRESTON: That's appreciated.

8 Thank you. My name is Elizabeth Treston. I am
9 Vice-President of the City Council Long Beach.

10 First, let me welcome you to our beautiful city by
11 the sea. Can you hear me?

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Yeah. Go ahead.

13 MS. TRESTON: Okay. I would like to
14 respectfully request that the Public Service
15 Commission take note of how many people are not here
16 today, but would like to be at this very important
17 meeting taking place this afternoon and this evening.

18 This evening, many members of our
19 community will be attending a rally for peace at one
20 of our temples and will be unable to attend. I know
21 that the comment period is open for some extended
22 time perhaps for the record you could let us know
23 when that ends. I think it's the 13th of November,
24 but I'm not sure.

25 A.L.J. MORENO: No, we will be taking

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2 comments throughout the case, so as long as it's
3 pending before the Commission.

4 MS. TRESTON: Okay. But I also know
5 that not everyone knows how this process works. I
6 ask that you consider an additional conference via
7 WebEx or Zoom or whatever platform that the State
8 would use for the residences by the Park, Oceanside
9 and Long Beach.

10 And just for the record, because the
11 question was asked previously, the City of Long Beach
12 in no way is waiving its uni -- unilateral authority
13 to determine whether it will or will not alienate its
14 parkland. If the city does not alienate its
15 parkland, Equinor cannot plant its cable on our beach
16 unless the federal government or the State takes the
17 property through imminent domain. Thank you.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.
19 Okay. Our next speaker and just on a moving forward
20 basis, I'll also state the name of the person who's
21 on deck, just so maybe we can move through folks a
22 little bit quicker. Our next speaker is Denise Ford
23 who will be followed by Senator Patricia Canzoneri-
24 Fitzpatrick.

25 Yes, please. Thank you.

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2 MS. FORD: Also, thank you very much
3 for hosting this forum here in the city. Let me just
4 switch my glasses, sorry.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Sure.

6 MS. FORD: I'm legislative --
7 Legislator Denise Ford. As an elected representative
8 of this area, one that will be impacted by the
9 proposed Empire Wind Farm, I urge you to vote to stop
10 this project. Last year, when we were first allowed
11 to make comments on this, we did not have enough
12 information as Equinor did not adequately communicate
13 with or educate the public.

14 As a matter of fact, they did not show
15 at the one -- show up at one civic meeting and
16 canceled another just hours before. NYSERDA who was
17 basically the architect of these wind farms, held
18 only two meetings in Long Beach. And I believe they
19 were in 2018 and 2019. They did not hold public
20 forums in the other impacted communities of Island
21 Park and Oceanside.

22 But they did have a booth set up for
23 questions at Equinor presentations. So you can
24 understand our frustration in getting information.
25 And even today when you could see how you couldn't

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2 even get an easy yes or no answer in regard to cables
3 -- the status of the cables from Equinor.

4 We have become more aware of the
5 impact these wind farms can have as they will be
6 industrializing our oceans. Equinor Wind Farm is
7 just 17 miles off our coast. The power cable is
8 proposed to run through populated neighborhoods which
9 is causing concern. Since it can go under six feet,
10 I would suggest that maybe they run their cable
11 underwater -- completely underwater and go through
12 Reynolds Channel and through other waterways to be
13 connected to the substation where it would be
14 connected to the power grid.

15 The substation in Island Park is very
16 close to neighboring homes. And it will negatively
17 change the landscape as it will be a multiple story
18 structure covering most of the area where a small
19 restaurant once stood. The humming vibrations even
20 though now reduced, but not fully eliminated, will be
21 continuous and can disrupt the peace of these
22 neighborhoods.

23 The battery storage will be in -- in
24 Oceanside on the Leota property close to Costco in
25 the Cove, a residential area. What types of

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2 batteries are these? Will they be lithium, which can
3 burn for days and days? Our voices must be heard
4 over those who are advocating for this.

5 We are just as concerned over climate
6 change as we were devastated by the flooding from
7 Sandy and some areas still suffer from re -- recent
8 storms. There are other options such as solar power
9 which is more environmentally friendly, and non-
10 controversial, as well as being made in America and
11 it is a proven green energy alternative.

12 The State should and could provide
13 necessary funding to help owners -- homeowners,
14 install these panels on its roof. This will provide
15 jobs for those that will install them. I have been
16 and continue to be an advocate for a -- for our
17 environment.

18 The wind farms will increase the cost
19 of our electricity as they estimate a dollar more a
20 month, but with the recent request from these
21 providers who are all European countries, the
22 increase will be greater if you grant them approval.
23 I have solar. My daughter and I have similar homes,
24 except I have central air.

25 My balance -- well, it runs about 100

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2 dollars a month, so I could go down even to \$84.50 a
3 month. She pays at least 200 dollars a month and
4 could go up to 300 dollars. We should be looking to
5 reduce our costs to our hard working families. Yes,
6 the wind farms will provide union jobs for
7 constructions and -- and maintenance.

8 But there are other -- other wind
9 farms being built as well as other large construction
10 projects such as the Sands at the coliseum site. As
11 many of us are or were union members, we support
12 labor. We are now asking labor to support us as we
13 are trying to protect our quality of life. There are
14 so many unanswered questions and concerns which must
15 be addressed before any approval is given.

16 Do not allow this to go forward, at
17 least until after the wind farms to the east of us
18 have been put online and we can see the impact they
19 have especially as ours will be close to our
20 shoreline. I have listened to both sides of this
21 issue. And I firmly believe a slower approach is
22 necessary as once it is built, there is no going
23 back. Thank you.

24 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you, Ms. Ford.
25 Our next speaker is Senator Patricia Canzoneri-

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2 Fitzpatrick, who will be followed by Ari Brown.

3 MS. CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK: Good
4 afternoon, Your Honor. I want to say thank you for
5 you to be here. Thank you to the Commissioner for
6 taking the time to also be here. My name is Patricia
7 Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and I'm the New York State
8 Senator for the 9th Senate District.

9 I am a representative for Long Beach
10 whose streets have been designated as construction
11 sites for underground transmission cables and whose
12 view of the wind turbines will be clear and
13 unobstructed. I am speaking today to provide my
14 public comment regarding Empire Offshore Wind,
15 L.L.C.'s application for Certificate of Environmental
16 Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of
17 approximately 12 miles of transmission lines.

18 I have participated in numerous
19 meetings and discussions with local officials and
20 representatives from Equinor in an attempt to gain
21 answers to our questions about number one, the impact
22 to our environment. Number two, the disruption to
23 the affected communities. Number three, the effects
24 of this project on property values. And number four,
25 the long term health effects to the local residents.

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2 The lack of transparency shown from
3 Equinor has been quite frankly been abysmal. Their
4 failure to communicate is startling. I want to be
5 clear that I am not opposed to New York's efforts to
6 pursue a cleaner and more resilient energy future.

7 However, I believe that such a
8 transition must be done with a strong commitment to
9 responsibility, transparency, and most importantly
10 meaningful engagement with local communities. My
11 constituents have expressed strong opposition to the
12 offshore wind project.

13 And I have been steadfast in defending
14 them against the top down control that would bypass
15 the will of local communities affected by this
16 project. Despite residents raising valid concerns,
17 Equinor has proven themselves to be terrible
18 neighbors. To say I have no confidence that Equinor
19 has positive intention -- intentions for my
20 constituency is an understatement.

21 They have made minimal attempts to
22 answer the pressing questions that my constituents
23 have. Equinor's public engagement for -- forums that
24 were meant to address these concerns have been
25 nothing but lip service. There has been no clarity

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2 or transparency throughout this entire process.

3 I, alongside with my elected
4 colleagues who represent parts of the South Shore
5 have been steadfast in protecting the barrier
6 islands. We were bypassed for the sake -- the sake
7 of political expediency in Albany and our res --
8 residents are rightly frustrated. We have paused the
9 progress of this project by holding legislation to
10 ensure that any proposed project would first address
11 the concerns of the community.

12 However, the process was fast tracked
13 without sufficiently addressing these concerns,
14 bypassing the home rule process, a critically
15 important constitutional safeguard that allows
16 residents to have control over their own communities
17 not Albany politicians.

18 I and others have been criticized for
19 pointing out the concerns that members of my
20 community have on this project. These critics
21 appoint two experts who say the project is safe and
22 that the need to address global warming is urgent.
23 It has been suggested that I can -- should convince
24 members of my community to embrace this project.

25 I want to be clear. I'm not a

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2 scientist. I'm not an engineer. I'm an elected
3 official. I do not work for Equinor. I work for the
4 people of the 9th Senate District. I do not
5 represent Equinor's interests or concerns. I
6 represent the interests and concerns of the people of
7 the 9th Senate District.

8 On the same day that the State Senate
9 passed the bill to advance Equinor's project against
10 my community's wishes, the Senate also passed the
11 bill to stop the planned discharge of waste into the
12 Hudson River as part of the decommissioning of the
13 Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. A plant which I
14 would note was producing more emission free energy
15 than the Empire Wind One and Two projects are
16 expected to produce combined.

17 The waste discharge was going to be in
18 compliance with federal safety requirements and the
19 decommissioning board's independent technical expert
20 testified to the safety of the plant. However,
21 members of the Hudson Valley Communities along with
22 environmental advocates expressed concerns over the
23 safety of the plant.

24 Nonetheless, as well as over the
25 economic harm that would be caused by the existence

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2 of such concerns. They cited the Hudson Valley's --
3 the Hudson River's pristine beauty and its role as an
4 economic driver for local communities as reasons that
5 we should not allow the plant to move forward.

6 I voted in favor of that legislation.
7 I voted to empower Hudson Valley residents to protect
8 their communities as they see fit. Nobody should be
9 surprised that I'm doing the same for Long Islanders,
10 my constituents.

11 Prior to the debate of the bill on the
12 advance of Equinor's project, I proposed a common
13 sense amendment on the floor of the Senate while the
14 underlying bill, the planned Offshore Wind
15 Transmission Act would require NYSERDA and other
16 State entities to develop a comprehensive plan to
17 improve transmission planning and coordination for
18 offshore winds after the State meets its 9000
19 megawatts goal for offshore wind.

20 My amendment would have required the
21 study be done before such projects ob -- obtain final
22 approval. The original bill would require the plant
23 to balance the impacts on the environment and local
24 municipalities while my amendment would have required
25 the plant to minimize negative impacts on the

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2 environment and local municipalities.

3 My amendment was not approve --
4 approved. Public hearings would have been required
5 to help develop the plant and would -- and would need
6 to include independent and verifiable information
7 from diverse sources such as local officials and
8 State -- and State officials. Most importantly, my
9 proposed amendment would have eliminated the
10 alienation language in the bill.

11 While the alienation language would
12 grant the City of Long Beach the authority to allow
13 Equinor to utilize a portion of the beach for their
14 cable system, the overwhelming response I have heard
15 from residents who would be impacted by E.W. Two,
16 both in Long Beach and in other areas, say that it's
17 far too many unanswered questions for this project to
18 move forward as proposed by Equinor.

19 The way that this application, coupled
20 with Equinor's previous initiatives, has been handled
21 with disregard for our residents' concerns is deeply
22 troubling. I find it difficult to place my trust in
23 a company that has consistently demonstrated for
24 months now it's will -- willingness to circumvent
25 local input in order to advance this project.

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2 Therefore, I stand firmly in
3 opposition to this application. And I ask that the
4 commission -- to deny it. At this time, if -- with
5 the court -- with Your Honors indulgence, I have a
6 statement from Congressman Anthony De Esposito, who
7 was unable to participate in this hearing. With your
8 permission, I'd like to read that statement.

9 A.L.J. MORENO: We do have a copy of
10 his statement to enter into the record. And just for
11 -- I think that we have a -- a lot of speakers here
12 today in person, we will enter that into the record
13 for consideration. But we would prefer to move on --

14 MS. FITZPATRICK: Okay.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: -- for the folks that
16 are here.

17 MS. FITZPATRICK: And if I could just
18 say that the congressman's statement is that he
19 strongly opposes this application and ask that the
20 project be denied as well. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.

22 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you so much.
23 Our next speaker is -- our speaker is Ari Brown to be
24 followed by Michael McGinty.

25 MR. BROWN: Good afternoon. I'm

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2 Assemblyman Ari Brown. I represent the District 20
3 from Inwood to Point Lookout. I thought it was going
4 to be a question and answer format, but we can do
5 this a different way. I've been in the construction
6 industry, this is my fifth decade, June 26th is my
7 50th year.

8 I've been involved in every -- almost
9 every major construction project on Long Island
10 whether as an elected official, as the chairman of
11 certain boards or physically doing the work. I'm
12 half Italian and Jewish. And I will tell you, my
13 Italian paisans would look like a choir boys compared
14 to the dishonest way this construction project was
15 dealt with.

16 From start to finish, the dishonesty
17 of the lobbyists and every member who has tried to --
18 to shove this down on us -- us Long Islander's
19 throats has been through subterfuge and sleight of
20 hand. I tell this story often that at the last day
21 of session when it didn't look like this was going to
22 go through, came out Friday night.

23 I'm Orthodox and Jewish not just
24 covering a bald spot. I said to myself, what am I
25 going to do? I can't travel. I'll sleep in my

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2 office and not tell anybody. Because I have a
3 feeling the lobbyists are going to try to get
4 everybody who said they wouldn't take this bill on to
5 do it if Ari's not around.

6 Sure enough, Friday night, went into
7 the capital. We had session through the night.
8 Lobbyists were there and they turned white when they
9 see me. Couldn't get anybody to take on the bill.
10 So who'd they get to do this? Well, as we know,
11 Equinor, formerly known as Staten Oil is 67 percent
12 owned by Norway, a partner of B.P. Oil.

13 In 2003, it was sanctioned by the
14 S.E.C. for bribing Iranian officials. It's a fact.
15 Along those lines, are you aware that the only
16 sponsors that they can get to sponsor this bill are
17 the ones who are openly and today condemning the
18 State of Israel, asking for the destruction of the
19 Jewish people. Right at this moment, they went to
20 the democrat socialists because they're the only ones
21 that would pick up this bill.

22 These are the ones who are hand in
23 hand today dealing with the Iranians who are looking
24 to destroy the Jewish people in every capacity. And
25 this, who is sponsoring the bill? When I questioned

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2 the sponsor on the floor, have you ever been to Long
3 Beach? Who is the mayor of Island Park? Have you
4 ever come to a single hearing?

5 Do you know where Long Beach is? No,
6 we're doing it for the betterment of the good. Man,
7 we heard that statement made throughout history.
8 Corruption, top to bottom. We heard there's going to
9 be union jobs. At the end of the day, there'll be a
10 few. But we're going to set -- we're going to bring
11 in union jobs to sacrifice the lives of our friends
12 and neighbors, truly?

13 I grew up on Long Island. I grew up
14 in Franklin Square. We're Long Islanders. I don't
15 think people from outside of Long Island understand
16 what that means. Most of the New York State is city
17 centric. They care about what the city wants not
18 about what Long Islanders want. We don't care if I'm
19 a Republican or they're a Democrat. We're all
20 friends and family.

21 We do what's good for the community.
22 And that's why we're here today. I don't think any
23 one of you on this Commission, Judges, would want
24 this in your backyard. Like I said, I've been in the
25 construction business. This was my 50th year. I can

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2 tell you that the sink holes that we've been seeing
3 throughout Long Island are only going to get worse
4 when you undermine the earth.

5 I build. It's what I do for a living.
6 I swing a hammer for a living. You dig a hole.
7 You're going to have settling when -- when you --
8 when you -- when you're working on disturbed soil.
9 When you dig a hole this big, you think the sink
10 holes in -- in Lido Beach were big. Wait until you
11 see these six-foot-wide holes, what's going to
12 happen?

13 What are you going to do with all the
14 gas lines and the sewer lines and the drainage lines?
15 The -- the -- the roads are the narrowest roads in
16 the State and they're doing it here. They can't put
17 the cables out onto -- onto the street -- onto the
18 water. Let's take this a little bit further.

19 As you're aware, this project has
20 never been done on landfall. It's one of the most
21 densely populated areas. My God, there -- there are
22 properties that -- that you don't have people for
23 miles and miles around. My whole district, I can
24 drive in 20 minutes. I have colleagues that it takes
25 them hours to drive their district.

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2 The most densely populated district,
3 you put this project and the community's not even
4 going to benefit in any which way, shape, or form.
5 When I mentioned that to my colleagues and some of
6 them are just disillusioned, they said at least we'll
7 benefit, you know, in New York City. That -- that
8 was their answer.

9 You know -- you know, it was very odd.
10 Now, we've discovered that it's not just the 345
11 kilowatt copper lines going in the ground. It's
12 going to be double that capacity. And the slap in
13 the face is when they compare it to a toaster oven,
14 that's no more than a toaster oven. We're Long
15 Islanders.

16 The cancer rate is so high. Why? I
17 grew up on Long Island on potato farms. Cancer rate
18 is high because of the pesticides. You've seen
19 nothing. When I buy a property, first thing I test
20 for is electromagnetic fields. Put it near your
21 Tesla, you'll see what -- what -- how that meter
22 goes. Put it near this, it'll melt the machine.

23 It'll -- it'll -- it'll melt my
24 equipment literally. As we know, none of the local
25 governments are in favor of this, not Island Park,

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2 not Long Beach, not Oceanside. And it's going to run
3 straight up the North Shore. And if you think you
4 saw a fight with us, wait till you see the -- the --
5 the people further up North Shore. You haven't seen
6 nothing yet.

7 You know, I was wondering if the
8 committee was familiar with bi --Bisphenol. This --
9 this is an endocrine disruptor that's responsible for
10 regulating hormones in the body. This disruption
11 leads to developmental issues, reproductive issues,
12 metabolic disorders and most of all cancer.

13 These turbine blades are composed
14 largely of this epoxy resin and glass fiber. Within
15 these fibers, mostly is this Bisphenol A. These
16 blades will spin 200 miles an hour and will cause
17 leading edge erosion. These nano particles will get
18 into the ocean, fish will ingest it and be picked up
19 and rained on into our drinking water in -- in --
20 into our ecosystem. It can't be filtered out.

21 Once it gets into our stomachs, the
22 acid will break down this epoxy and release this
23 Bisphenol A which will attack the host. We're the
24 host. There'll be 200 of these turbines, each with
25 three blades that extend the size of a football

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2 field. Everybody thinks the -- the -- the -- the --
3 the wind -- the turbine in -- in Island Park is
4 monolithic.

5 That's like, you can't even see it if
6 you put it next to these monstrous things. We're
7 Long Islanders, we also like to look out into the
8 water, won't be able to do that anymore. It's twice
9 as close as any project's ever been. You know, New
10 York City people want to do it, put it in New York
11 City.

12 But you know what? We pay the bill
13 for the State and they just spit on us in every
14 single way. I'm just wondering also, you know, one
15 of the last days of session, one of my colleagues on
16 the other side of the aisle, lovely person, Didi
17 Barrett proposed a piece of legislation that passed.

18 It was bill 82888. It was -- it was
19 titled Clean Energy Outreach and Community Planning
20 Program. And I thanked her for it, because I agreed
21 for it -- agreed with her with it. Part of it,
22 Section B says, in addition to the authority's
23 procurement programs and improved permitting process,
24 renewable energy projects require collaboration
25 between host communities and -- and renewable energy

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2 developers in order to be successfully and
3 appropriately sited and constructed.

4 This was approved by the majority.
5 The same day that they forced this piece of -- the
6 other legislation down our throats. How about at
7 least the body by the legislation that they're
8 supposed to get the community to agree by? Now, I --
9 I have a whole host of other questions, but I just
10 want to make another statement.

11 You know, the -- this lobbyist firm
12 which really went after the Senator and I, in every
13 which way, shape, and form, so dishonest to the core.
14 They -- they put out these false statements that they
15 have people signing on. If you look at the people
16 that signed on in agreement to this project and I
17 have the list right here.

18 Not one of them -- not one of them
19 lives in Long Beach, in Island Park, in Oceanside.
20 They're all in the city. Like I said, we're all
21 Democrats, Republicans, Liberals, Conservatives,
22 whatever. Did you have one person in our community -
23 - I haven't gotten one person out of my 132,000
24 constituents say, Ari, I love it. Please do it. Not
25 one.

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2 Please consider this and please deny
3 this project. It doesn't belong here. Thank you for
4 your time.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Our next speaker will
8 be Michael McGinty followed by Caren Ruskin. And
9 again, I would just ask that everyone please hold
10 their applause and don't interrupt the speakers.
11 Also, let's try to keep it to about three minutes, so
12 that we can hear from as many of you as possible.
13 Sir.

14 MR. MCGINTY: Before I begin, I want
15 to offer my thoughts and prayers to this -- to the
16 Israel, to its people, to our family and friends,
17 blessings and God help us all. God help us all. I
18 appreciate the hearing representing another step in
19 the New York State mandated Article 7 permitting
20 process.

21 While we are all looking forward to
22 reducing our carbon footprint, in a further effort
23 towards the greening of Island Park, Long Beach.
24 This is a matter which should be studied carefully
25 with full transparency. To date, that has not been

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2 the case. On behalf of the Island Park Board of
3 Trustees, I am opposed to the project.

4 And for the record, we will not
5 abrogate our zoning rules and regulations while we
6 attempt to move forward from our reliance on fossil
7 fuels. I don't think that the Public Service
8 Commission hearings are offering the public a full
9 vetting of the implications of the Equinor plan for
10 the production of wind energy, both its transmission
11 and its distribution.

12 At the outset, I felt that the
13 location of the Equinor plant on the Barrett site
14 would solve and address a multitude of concerns and
15 problems. With specificity, I felt that the
16 increased assessment to the Barrett property would
17 address the calamity of the tax certiorari settlement
18 between LIPA and Nassau County, its budgetary and
19 financial impact on the New York -- on Island Park
20 School District. And locate the Equinor Conversion
21 and Transmission Plant to a suitable industrial
22 locale as well as ensure long-term union jobs. At
23 the present, the proposed project location of the
24 Equinor Transmission Plant in a residential
25 neighborhood raises a number of concerns.

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2 It heightens environmental issues. It
3 heightens quality of life issues. It poses any
4 number of short and long-term health concerns. Never
5 mind the property valuation going forward. The
6 possible dele --deleterious impacts of the potential
7 of future flood issues. In fact, without preliminary
8 plans for the construction of the proposed conversion
9 and transmission facility, there's no opportunity to
10 assess its impact to the flood plain.

11 Recent developments in Europe,
12 Germany, Sweden, Norway, as examples, have
13 contemplated moving away from wind energy, returning
14 to fossil fuels and expanding further their usage of
15 nuclear power. In Scotland and France, wind energy
16 turbines are located in less populated areas and
17 mountainous regions.

18 In fact, the northeast -- the
19 northeast. The North Sea fishing industry has been
20 negatively impacted. God knows what will happen to
21 marine life here. The proposed surcharge to utility
22 bills which is on your calendar for tomorrow, Your
23 Honor, at 5 or 10 dollars per customer per month is
24 untenable and frankly unsustainable. Thank you for
25 your time.

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2 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.

3 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

4 Our next speaker will be Caren Ruskin followed by Tim
5 Kramer.

6 MS. RUSKIN: Hi, good afternoon.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Good afternoon.

8 MS. RUSKIN: I'm Caren Ruskin. And
9 I've lived in Long Beach, 35 years. I started my
10 family here. They've all grown up. None of them
11 wants to leave Long Beach. They love it here. I
12 love it here. Just a little idea of what our
13 community is. We were -- we're not just friends,
14 we're a family.

15 If anybody needs anything we're all
16 there for each other. And we -- we just look out for
17 them no matter what the situations are. As far as
18 enjoying the town, well, we're beach goers. Where we
19 go to the boardwalk, we go down to the beach. No
20 matter what time of year it is, somebody is on the
21 beach.

22 To have the cable run through the
23 beach and the ocean is a pretty scary moment. We
24 have a group of amazing people that's called the
25 Schooner Family. They run the most incredible

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2 business. But it's out of love of the community.
3 They're people -- they handle -- work with people who
4 are wanting to surf, people who are handicapped.

5 They run programs, invite camps down.
6 No parent's going to want to put their child in the
7 water. Not by any sense of it. I know I'm going to
8 be a grandmother very soon. And I'm excited. But I
9 wouldn't want my grandchild to be in that water. I'd
10 be petrified to find out what would happen.

11 It's important to know that it's all -
12 - that this whole construction is going to
13 industrialize the town. Nobody is going to want to
14 come to Long Beach. We have an incredible business.
15 There are a lot of phenomenal businesses here.
16 You've got to think about that. The people have
17 their lives, their -- their, you know, everything put
18 into it, it's not going to be there.

19 The people are going to have --
20 they're going to end up closing because nobody is
21 going to want to come into Long Beach. It's going to
22 be a mess. It's -- everything's going to be all
23 topsy-turvy. And it's -- it's going to hurt big
24 time. We're not a large community in size, in the
25 sense of miles, but we're family.

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2 And we need to think about that. And
3 on a -- on a last note, I have some papers I'd like
4 you to have if I may.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Sure.

6 MS. RUSKIN: Thank you.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

8 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.

9 MS. RUSKIN: This is for you and this
10 is for the Judges. It's the same. Thank you.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

12 MS. RUSKIN: This paper that you're
13 going to receive is something that we received from
14 Equinor. And it's showing that they have a 137
15 people who are for the wind turbines and the cables
16 and they're looking for the whole -- everything.

17 But if you think about it and you look
18 at their names, addresses in there and the whole --
19 the whole comment, it's the exact same comment for
20 every person. None of those people live around here.
21 They live Upstate, in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens.
22 And most of them were Upstate.

23 How would they -- when would they have
24 ever been there into Long Beach, often enough to have
25 such a passionate opinion about this. I don't see

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2 that. But we, in Long Beach have 10,300 signatures
3 that are voting against it. That's not power, that's
4 not -- I don't know what it is. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.

6 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.
7 Our next speaker is Tim Kramer to be followed by
8 Kevin Kelley.

9 MR. KRAMER: Hi, I'm Tim. And I'd
10 just like to, like Caren, introduce myself a little
11 bit. I've lived in Long Beach for 37 years. I'm a
12 homeowner, a business owner, a father of two, a
13 little league coach for many years, football coach.
14 I would describe myself as deeply entrenched in this
15 community, okay.

16 So in my hand right here, as Caren
17 mentioned, I have three -- 10,320 signed petitions of
18 people who are against this project, 10,320, now what
19 -- what -- what is it? That's just a number, right?
20 So let me try to put it in perspective. There is
21 about 12,000 registered voters in this town, so
22 10,320 of 12 -- 12,000.

23 And then, there is also roughly about
24 40,000 residents that live in Long Beach. So that
25 kind of puts it in perspective. So about 25 percent

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2 of the population have signed our petition. I would
3 say that's pretty substantial. And my next visual
4 is, this is a 12 inch tube. Okay.

5 And this is going to be the size of
6 the cable that's going to be running through our
7 streets of Long Beach. And we found out today that
8 we're going to have two of these. Okay. These --
9 these two cables are going to be 10, 15, 20 feet from
10 our front doors. Okay. Affecting hundreds of homes
11 along the route, okay.

12 And -- well, we're going to take their
13 word for it, 345,000 votes. So I'm going to -- I'm
14 going to just try and make this real simple. So
15 you're going to hear arguments for, you're going to
16 hear arguments against, you're going to, you know,
17 every -- everything in between. Here's the question.

18 Would you want this running 10, 15, 20
19 feet in front of your home with your precious
20 children and your precious lives, okay. I spoke with
21 a gentleman from Equinor over here, he said if you're
22 standing on top of the entrenched cable, the 50
23 milligauss load that's how they measure E.M.F. is 50
24 to 60 which is substantial, okay.

25 That's in addition to the E.M.F.s and

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2 milligrams that we already have in our environment
3 already, it's on top of, okay. So that's important
4 as well. And I -- I -- I don't mean to break
5 anybody's bubble here. Renewable energy doesn't
6 exist, okay. And these turbines are constructed,
7 serviced, and maintained with fossil fuel, okay.

8 And you're not eliminating anything.
9 You're not eliminating fossil fuels. You still have
10 to carry a 100 percent base load, so when the
11 turbines aren't spinning and they aren't creating
12 energy, you got to get that base load from somewhere
13 else. Where are you going to get it from? You're
14 going to get it from natural gas, you're going to get
15 it from nuclear and -- and other various sources.

16 So you're not eliminating anything.
17 So that -- that's my presentation and again, I thank
18 you for the -- for the opportunity.

19 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you, sir. Our
20 next speaker is Kevin Kelley to be followed by Karin
21 Azadian.

22 MR. KELLEY: Hi, thanks for this
23 opportunity to testify today. My name is Kevin
24 Kelley. I live in Atlantic Beach about three miles
25 from here. So I'm speaking today on behalf of my

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2 grandchildren who are age seven and four and are
3 unable to testify because of their ages. But I
4 wanted to make the point that their future, as I'm
5 sure everybody in this room would tend to agree is
6 not terribly bright.

7 Given the nature of what's happening
8 to our environment with climate change. For example,
9 you all remember the orange smoke that enveloped this
10 community and many others earlier this year.
11 Remember the flooding ten days ago from a relentless
12 rain that was unprecedented in it's -- it's
13 dimensions that's, again, clearly attributable to
14 climate change, that the science of this is not in
15 doubt. It's not in dispute.

16 Globally -- forget the local area for
17 a moment, look at the big picture. Globally, we have
18 record temperatures every year, we have ice caps
19 melting, we have glaciers melting. Last winter in
20 this community there was no snowfall, there was a
21 half an inch of snow. That's not encouraging, that's
22 not a good sign for what's coming in our -- our lives
23 in the future.

24 So we need alternatives to fossil
25 fuels. Fossil fuels are the cause of what we're

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2 experiencing. What I'm describing is, again,
3 irrefutably a result of reliance on burning fossil
4 fuels. I don't need to recite the science to people.
5 I think everybody understands how this works with the
6 greenhouse gas effect, okay.

7 We desperately and urgently need
8 alternatives to plants such as the Barrett Plant
9 which is spewing poisons into the atmosphere in this
10 community. I hope that others will join me in
11 campaigning for an end to the Barrett Plant because
12 its cables, its pollution affect the wellbeing of our
13 children and our grandchildren.

14 The Equinor project is far from
15 perfect. It's designed by human beings. Human
16 beings are not capable of perfection. There's flaws
17 in this project. It can be improved. My hope, my
18 belief is that the science indicates that renewable
19 power from offshore wind is something that can be a
20 very positive, very effective, very helpful source of
21 power for our communities and for our grandchildren
22 going forward.

23 I urge the Commission to critically
24 examine this project. Yes, indeed, make sure that
25 what is being said by Equinor is indeed accurate.

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2 But also keep your view on the larger -- larger
3 picture here which is that we're living in a very
4 dangerous time, both in the present tense and in the
5 future tense.

6 We don't have much time to waste. We
7 don't have any luxury of -- of temporizing about how
8 we're going to move forward here. We need renewable
9 power. This project is at our doorstep. It deserves
10 serious consideration. If revisions are necessary,
11 let's have them, but let's move forward with
12 renewable power. Thank you.

13 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.
14 Our next speaker is Karin Azadian to be followed by
15 Thomas Clark.

16 MS. AZADIAN: Hello.

17 A.L.J. MORENO: Hi, Karin.

18 MS. AZADIAN: I'd like to thank Your
19 Honors very much for having this opportunity today.
20 And also Commissioner, thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: I can't hear
22 you.

23 A.L.J. MORENO: Louder, please.

24 MS. AZADIAN: Okay. I would just like
25 to point out that as private citizens, we don't have

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2 a budget or P.R. department to make glossy handouts
3 or mailings or anything. And our neighbors have
4 taken it upon themselves to try to get unbiased, good
5 scientific information because we've learned that
6 there is not a lot of integrity here.

7 The information that we've been given
8 is given by parties who may have a financial
9 relationship with Offshore Wind. And I do -- I
10 distrust that information because of that. And so
11 we're just hoping -- and I'm hoping very much that
12 you will be able to act with integrity and
13 transparency and bring a little of that to this whole
14 process which is sorely needed. Thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Thank you.

16 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.
17 Our next speaker is Thomas Clark to be followed by
18 Kelly Martinsen.

19 MR. CLARK: Madam Commissioner, thank
20 you for the chance to speak today. My name is Thomas
21 Clark. I live in Long Beach. I was born and raised
22 on Long Island. I'm fiercely proud of the world-
23 famous beaches that we enjoy. I took the day off
24 from work to be here today.

25 I have no financial stake in this

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2 project, other than the taxes that I pay to live
3 here. I'm here today to let you know, on behalf of
4 all the concerned residents that we're not loose
5 cannons. We're not conspiracy theorists. We're just
6 dads and moms, who live here because we share a great
7 love of the beach, where the land ends and the sea
8 begins.

9 To us, this is sacred ground. We care
10 deeply about the sea and the beauty of the ocean and
11 all that it stands for. We also care deeply due to
12 the impact that we have on our climate, about finding
13 new ways to end our country's reliance on fossil
14 fuels, but not this one.

15 We cared enough to dig through the
16 dense and often turgid documents that have been
17 released by the applicant. And we care enough to
18 have serious questions and concerns about how quickly
19 this project is moving, despite the lack of
20 certainty, and the sort of things we heard today. And
21 the, our understandings is, and the multiple uses of
22 the word approximately to describe the proposed plans
23 in these documents.

24 Approximately to us is another way of
25 saying, we're not sure. We care enough to be here

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2 today with many unanswered questions that need to be
3 answered thoroughly. Especially for a project that
4 has never been executed on planet Earth.

5 The snaking -- use that word,
6 intentionally. The snaking and embedding of export
7 cables into a densely populated beach community, like
8 Long Beach, has never been done. Not to the extent
9 of being proposed. We're concerned about all the
10 unknowns that are making us feel like test subjects
11 in a plan to snake an export cable carrying hundreds
12 of thousands of watts under the sand, under the
13 boardwalk, under our sidewalks, where we walk our
14 kids to school, to temple, to church.

15 Under the spaces where we park our
16 cars, where we wait for the lights to change and
17 exposing ourselves and our families to unknown levels
18 of electromagnetic fields, which are cumulative over
19 the term -- the course of one's life and can affect
20 cellular and neuro -- neurological development.

21 We care enough to raise these and
22 other unanswered issues like how many years will it
23 actually take for Empire Two to be fully operational.
24 And why isn't anyone discussing Empire One and its
25 proximity to the land. And how does the project plan

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2 to dispose of the blades that will fail and age out.

3 And what fossil fuels are associated
4 with the installation, operation, maintenance, repair
5 and disposal of these turbines. And if these
6 projects truly represent renewable energy, how will
7 they offset the cost of the fossil fuels used in
8 their installation, operation, and repair.

9 And what is the actual impact of this
10 project on sea life, the fishing and tourist
11 industries, the seabed itself and the ecosystem in
12 the ocean. And what is the impact of Bisphenol A,
13 the toxic element in turbine production. And what is
14 the impact of sulfur hexafluoride, a greenhouse gas
15 that they require.

16 And what's the impact of the sounds,
17 the infrasound that they generate on residents' peace
18 of mind. And what is the impact of light pollution
19 and construction noise for 10 years or more. And why
20 do the junction boxes for the cables need to be 50
21 feet by 20 feet under the ground.

22 We don't know any of this. All of
23 these unanswered questions, all unexplained issues
24 and more and everything moving at a breakneck pace
25 that has the industry leaders concerned as well.

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2 Hunter Armistead, C.E.O. of Pattern Energy said a few
3 weeks ago in the New York Times, I don't know if
4 there's a single major transmission project out there
5 that's been done in less than a decade.

6 There's too much optimism in how fast
7 people think this is actually going to happen and I
8 think that is dangerous. In conclusion, we care
9 about our community, we dads, and moms, and sons, and
10 daughters, mostly blue collar, God fearing,
11 taxpaying, upright American citizens, we care enough
12 to ask you please, please, don't just tap the brakes
13 on this.

14 We're asking you to slam the brakes on
15 this. Pull the car over to the shoulder. Pull the
16 parking brake and turn the engine off before we are
17 all forced to deal with the aftermath of all the
18 approximately, and the unanswered questions, and the
19 unknowns that these plans keep generating as they
20 continue to change and not be addressed.

21 We implore you to stop Empire Two from
22 moving forward until all our questions are answered
23 and to yours and our communities' liking. Finally, I
24 don't know how long it's been since you've been to
25 the beach. But if on this beautiful day, I invite

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2 you to take a stroll here on the sand of the
3 beautiful City of Long Beach, the city by the sea,
4 where you can put the concrete and the bricks and the
5 asphalt and the cement behind you and let your feet
6 be tickled by the soft sand and the gentle tide as it
7 surrounds your toes and ankles.

8 As you look out on the primeval
9 pristine Atlantic Ocean, you'll see the beauty we
10 see. And you'll see why we're confident that this
11 moment alone will inspire you to reject the idea of
12 industrializing this breathtaking natural resource,
13 our country's eastern natural border, the line in the
14 sand that defines Long Island.

15 And it's referred to every time we
16 sing America the beautiful and God bless America.
17 Thank you for your time.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

19 A.L.J. MORENO: Our next speaker is
20 Kelly Martinsen to be followed by David Cyprian and I
21 apologize if I mispronounce anyone's name. Kelly
22 Martinsen.

23 MS. MARTINSEN: Hi. First, welcome.
24 Welcome to Long Beach. It's an amazing town. And I
25 also hope you guys get a chance to walk around. I

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2 ask you to walk around the beach and also Broadway
3 just so that you kind of see how --

4 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: Excuse me, you
5 got -- you have to move microphone to your mouth.

6 MS. MARTINSEN: I don't step on my
7 tippy toes, I guess, can you hear me?

8 A.L.J. MORENO: Yes.

9 MS. MARTINSEN: All right. Perfect.
10 So I was just welcoming them to our perfect town. So
11 I just want to let you know a little bit about the
12 messenger before you hear my message. I am pro-
13 renewable and pro-alternative energy. I've had solar
14 panels since 2007. I didn't drive my car here, I
15 biked it. I walk to work every day.

16 So I just think that's important that
17 you know where this message is coming from. Another
18 interesting fact about me is that I worked as a
19 clinical science liaison for a company called Celgene
20 and I worked in their oncology, hematology division
21 in research.

22 So when I use those two things to tell
23 you about myself, I want to tell you what happened
24 when I read the 145,057 page Article 7, I was
25 honestly made sick to see the first speck of

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2 dishonesty from Equinor. In the Appendix FF, in
3 print, in writing it says, that in 2007, the W.H.O.,
4 World Health Organization classifies E.M.F. as
5 harmless.

6 This is in their documents, this is
7 true. What is also true is that in 2011 there was a
8 reclassification. I promise you Equinor knows that.
9 What they were hoping is that you didn't, that is so
10 dishonest. That is not -- to quote other people
11 here, that is not being a good neighbor.

12 That's being a horrible neighbor, how
13 can we trust them with anything else. The
14 reclassification that was done in 2011 was prim --
15 primarily due to increasing evidence of the link to
16 two specific things. The first being childhood
17 leukemia and the second being fetal abnormalities and
18 spontaneous abortion or miscarriage.

19 This pile of paper represents less
20 than 10 percent of the studies and papers you could
21 find if you go on PubMed, not Google, PubMed, from
22 the National Cancer Institute -- from the National
23 Public Library. This is less than 10 percent of the
24 information that has come out since 2011 on the
25 dangers of E.M.F.

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2 In an effort to preserve time, I'm
3 just going to point out two of the most relevant
4 papers -- actually three. They're both again from
5 the National Library of Medicine, accessed through
6 PubMed. The first one is a paper evaluating a large
7 number of 36,000 children with leukemia. They found
8 a statistically significant conclusion that E.M.F.
9 exposure is linked to a two-fold increase in
10 childhood leukemia.

11 More important, at the conclusion of
12 this study, it showed a dose response observed -- a
13 dose response. So yes, when speaking to Equinor at
14 some of these meetings, some of the representatives
15 have printed out, well, you have -- you have all
16 these wires all over, yeah, we don't need more.
17 There's a reason France is recalling an iPhone.

18 There's a reason we know now what we
19 didn't know even in 2018 about the dangers of E.M.F.
20 I'm begging you to not let Long Beach residents, Lido
21 Beach residents, Island Park residents and Oceanside
22 residents to be made guinea pigs. I am begging you.

23 The second topic or the second area of
24 research that I thought would be important to stress
25 were the two papers that determine the effect of

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2 E.M.F. on fetal development and spontaneous abortion.
3 One was from 2021 and one was just from May 2023.
4 And that was the most impressive, I will say and it's
5 new.

6 So maybe that's the -- their
7 representatives may not be aware of how dangerous
8 this proposal is. Both of these studies concluded
9 that increasing exposure to E.M.F. is linked to fetal
10 abnormalities and spontaneous abortion.

11 Tim Kramer just mentioned that one of
12 the representatives talked about a 50 milligauss load
13 standing on the street, where the cable will be right
14 below. These studies are talking about 3 milligauss,
15 maximum 4, 3 milligauss 3 tesla. You're talking
16 about 50 milligauss in this densely populated
17 community.

18 I recently saw some route changes on
19 some other wind turbine projects. And I was curious
20 to see why the routes were changed. And a lot of it
21 had to do with wetlands, which I thought was great.
22 And I'm just here to ask for the residents of Long
23 Beach, Lido, Island Park, and Oceanside to be valued
24 at least to the same degree as we do wetlands, not
25 just for me, but for the grandchildren that have been

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2 mentioned, for future generations.

3 The very end of the study on fetal
4 abnormalities says that these implications from these
5 studies will be generational. I ask that you
6 consider all of this and in the end, respect --
7 respect the human life that is living here in Long
8 Beach and Lido. Thanks, guys.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our
11 speaker is David Cyprian to be followed by Kevin
12 Martinsen.

13 THE REPORTER: Pass.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay. Thank you.
15 Kevin Martinsen to be followed by Claudia Borecky.

16 MR. MARTINSEN: Thanks, Your Honor.
17 Just -- welcome to Long Beach.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

19 MR. MARTINSEN: Thanks for coming and
20 doing this here. We really appreciate it. Just for
21 the record, I know I asked the question before our
22 city council, they rejected this project coming
23 through Long Beach when we were here at city council
24 meetings. So it was under -- it was our
25 understanding that they had a say in the alienation

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2 of the parkland.

3 So if you could clear that up for me,
4 that would be great.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: I can't, at the
6 moment. We are taking comments at this point. But
7 we can certainly follow-up with you afterwards to
8 talk and, it would be probably the most appropriate,
9 if I'm honest, for you to reach out to town council
10 or the city council rather to respond to that.

11 MR. MARTINSEN: Okay. Great. So can
12 I ask any questions here, because I have a couple of
13 questions?

14 A.L.J. MORENO: No, we can take -- if
15 you have questions about the project or the process,
16 we can certainly take them offline. But this event
17 is to take public comments for the Commission's
18 consideration.

19 MR. MARTINSEN: Okay. I get you.

20 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

21 MR. MARTINSEN: No problem. So let me
22 just get that what I want to say here. So as my
23 wonderful wife came up and spoke, she's very -- she's
24 very smart. She does a lot of research in the 50
25 milligauss, right, that's correct, 50 milligauss for

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2 us from Equinor, that -- that's how much milligauss
3 you get in --

4 MR. KRAMER: 50 to 60.

5 MR. MARTINSEN: Yeah. Okay. The 50
6 to 60 milligauss, they told us on online and that 50
7 -- 50 to 60 milligauss, they said, well, it's in the
8 streets it's far away from you. But if I would -- I
9 would say that if you could and Diane, maybe you
10 could do this, you're -- you're a Long -- you're a
11 Long Islander.

12 Take a walk down Lincoln Boulevard and
13 just see how close proximity our houses are to the
14 street, you can literally -- you know, throw a rock
15 and hit the middle of the street, no problem. So
16 we're very close to the proximity of where the wires
17 are going to be going through.

18 And that's extremely concerning to us
19 especially at 50 milligauss, because most of these
20 studies are showing that very small dose of
21 milligauss are -- are creating cancer and in children
22 as well as -- as adults. I myself am a cancer
23 survivor. I -- I would -- I would walk around this
24 town, I was probably 120 pounds at -- at my worst and
25 people didn't think I was going to live.

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2 And to think about how this can have
3 an effect, not only on my children, but future
4 generations is very concerning, especially being a
5 survivor. Just -- just getting back to the voltage
6 of the cable and coming through the streets. We have
7 somebody mentioned about we do have a surf camp on --
8 on Riverside.

9 And what brings surf camps, it brings
10 little children usually and mothers who are pregnant
11 a lot of times because they're having multiple
12 children and they'll be hanging out on the beach
13 along that cable, which is six feet under ground and
14 coming through Riverside Boulevard. Riverside is a
15 pretty active beach and the beach is, you know,
16 filled during the summertime.

17 So I can't see how anybody can get
18 away from the milligauss of those cables when they're
19 walking around the beach, they won't even know it's
20 there. And what they mentioned today in their
21 presentation is that the milligauss, the cable is
22 only going to be six feet under the sands. The
23 erosion that we have over here, it's going to be
24 constantly coming up onto the surface.

25 The -- the six feet is not a deep --

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2 deep area of sand. I -- I can pretty much dig six
3 feet with my hands on the beach. The sand is very
4 granular here and very loose. And I just want
5 everybody should know that the people here on Long
6 Beach aren't against renewable energies. We are
7 absolutely for new renewable energies.

8 We would like to see a zero carbon
9 day, every single one of us would -- would -- would
10 be. What we are for, we're for unions. We're for -
11 - we're for all the things that -- that come along
12 with this project. However, we are not for this
13 cable coming through Long Beach in a highly densely
14 populated area, especially with all the studies that
15 we've done our research, with all the studies that
16 we've seen and all the studies that we've -- we've
17 uncovered.

18 The amount of milligauss of E.M.F.
19 that's coming off there are way higher than what
20 we're seeing in our studies that are showing adverse
21 effects to humans. And I'd just like to ask people,
22 people who are here, who are for this project that
23 are coming to speak in favor of this project, that's
24 great.

25 I think it's great that you're for

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2 renewable energies and you want -- you want a better
3 life for your kids. And -- and you want clear clean
4 air and less storms and less rain or less -- you
5 know, more snow, I guess they want more snow
6 apparently.

7 But -- but I would say that when you
8 come up here, think about the residents here and
9 think about our children -- I'm sorry, emotional when
10 I think about this stuff. Think about our children
11 and think about the people that are going to be
12 affected by these E.M.F.s coming through because
13 there's more to this than just clean energy.

14 There is areas where these guys at
15 Equinor can act -- absolutely find another
16 unpopulated area to put these cables through. There
17 are areas they can put it through the waterways.
18 Don't put these marshlands in front of human beings.
19 If they need to put it through a marshland, put it
20 through a marshland.

21 But don't put the marshlands ahead of
22 humans. And that's really concerning to me. I just
23 want to ask people, you know, what -- what happens to
24 the real liberals in the world that were against
25 corporations and against the people who are coming

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2 into our town and they want to just take it over and
3 run the cables because it's easier for them or it's
4 less expensive for them.

5 Are we going to let these corporations
6 run over us so they can make a little bit of extra
7 money and hurt human beings in the process? We've
8 seen it a 100 million times in this country. We've
9 seen it man verse Ford when Ford Motor Company dumped
10 all their -- their paints in a -- in an area where
11 people lived and these people got cancer.

12 We saw it in New London, Connecticut,
13 when -- when the people from Pfizer took over these
14 people's homes and took eminent domain from them, and
15 they had to move and now it's become an industrial
16 area it was the people versus New London. This is
17 not about us versus them, clean energy versus oil or
18 gas. We all want clean energy.

19 It's us versus corporations running
20 over us and trying to take over our town so they can
21 make a buck and remember that. Come back -- come
22 back and we need to fight these corporations and make
23 them -- make them move this cable to another area.
24 It might not be easy, but I'm sure they can figure it
25 out. Thanks for your time.

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2 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

3 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
4 speaker will be Claudia Borecky to be followed by
5 John Bendo. And again, we do have a lot of folks who
6 have registered to speak today. So again, we would
7 really appreciate it if you could keep your comments
8 to about three minutes so that we can hopefully get
9 to everyone at the session. Thank you.

10 MS. BORECKY: First of all, I'd like
11 to let you know that I -- my original speech was, I
12 timed it six minutes and I put it down to three so.

13 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you so much.

14 MS. BORECKY: My name is Claudia
15 Borecky. I'm with L.I. Clean Air Water & Soil. Now,
16 we're hearing about dead whales washing up on our
17 shores. We're told that wind turbines don't reduce
18 our carbon footprint. And I'm hearing the same
19 concerns about our ocean with wind that we had about
20 the two offshore L.N.G. facilities that we defeated
21 in 2009 and 2013.

22 And the offshore drilling project we
23 defeated in 2018. But there's a lot of
24 disinformation out there. And the truth is that
25 there are more dead whales because of a growing whale

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2 population. And necrop -- necropsies of findings of
3 whale that's killed by ship strikes and fishing
4 entanglements. No link exists between the whale
5 deaths and offshore wind.

6 Although this -- this disinformation
7 is being repeated over and over on Fox News. So why
8 -- why do it, if it doesn't reduce our carbon
9 footprint and I had that concern. So I asked the
10 experts and I learned that the manufacture and
11 installation of offshore wind turbines do make carbon
12 dioxide.

13 But once they are in operation there
14 is 99 percent less emissions than fossil fuels. And
15 then, I can see what was happening recently in the
16 world around us. 15 million people a year are dying
17 from the air quality from coal, oil and gas. 10
18 million people a year are now dying because of
19 extreme heat. That's doubled in the last year.

20 Florida's Coral Reef is the only coral
21 reef in the continental United States and provides
22 shelter, food and breeding sites for millions of
23 plants and animals. This year, the water is so hot
24 in Florida that entire reefs were wiped out. Smoke
25 from Canadian wildfires puts serious illness here in

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2 Long Island. When has Long Island ever breathed
3 wildfire smoke before?

4 Deadly fires, wildfires in Hawaii, a
5 tropical island. Hurricanes in California deserts.
6 We've had so many hurricanes this year that they're
7 running out of names. We had Vermont flooded.
8 Vermont and rising sea levels and intense storms are
9 wiping out fire islands, beaches, and homes.

10 We're spending \$1.8 billion for band
11 aid repairs. This summer had record heat worldwide.
12 And they're saying because of hum -- human migration,
13 because of drought is expected to increase by 200
14 percent. Climate change is not some abstract future
15 fear, it's happening right now.

16 Human behavior directly impacts
17 climate change. When COVID-19 hit, reduction in
18 travel and other economic sectors by countries around
19 the globe to drastically decrease air pollution and
20 greenhouse gas emissions within just a few weeks.
21 When you stop burning fossil fuels, the warming stops
22 immediately.

23 We are at a fragile moment. But
24 there's still time to act. We need to take advantage
25 of this moment and move towards clean energy. As the

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2 people of the Iroquois nation said, in everyday
3 operation, we must consider the impact on the 7th
4 generation. And I don't want Long Island to have the
5 same fate as the fabled city of Atlantis in the 7th
6 generations to come.

7 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

8 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you so much.

9 Our next speaker will be John Bendo to be followed by
10 Robert Weltwea, apologies for the pronunciation.

11 MR. BENDO: Good afternoon.

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Good afternoon.

13 MR. BENDO: And welcome to Long Beach.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Yeah.

15 MR. BENDO: My name is John Bendo and
16 I'm president of the Long Beach City Council. First,
17 thank you for coming to Long Beach to hold this
18 meeting in person, I think that's important. And as
19 you're hearing, there is a lot of opinions on this
20 topic and you're going to get an earful today as you
21 are finding out.

22 So just for reference purposes, I want
23 to make you aware that outside of my elected office,
24 that I'm an engineer who's worked in the power
25 industry for over 30 years. So in my capacity as an

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2 engineer, I'm hoping to make a fact based case for
3 you to consider, leaving out the emotional element
4 that -- that any of us that have gone through this
5 before, I know is often part of public hearings, the
6 siting process.

7 So let me start by saying, we here in
8 Long Beach are acutely aware of the devastating
9 impacts of global warming. Our city was devastated
10 by Superstorm Sandy 10 years ago and many of the
11 residents of the city wiped out their life savings,
12 repairing and elevating their homes and that includes
13 me, many people sitting behind me and the majority of
14 the city council members.

15 So we embrace the need to move to
16 greener energy sources, we really do. But in doing
17 so, we should not replace one set of problems by
18 creating a new set of problems. So there are a
19 number of fundamental flaws in the analysis of the
20 proposed high voltage transmission line route that
21 the applicant presented.

22 The applicant selected the preferred
23 route over the several alternatives that appear to
24 have less environmental impacts, particularly as
25 related to onshore segments of the installation. The

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2 analysis contained in the Empire Wind Two, Article 7
3 application in Exhibit 3 alternatives is insufficient
4 to support the preferred route identified by the
5 applicant.

6 This is based on a finding that only a
7 cursory superficial analysis of the alternatives was
8 provided. And further, the applicant's analysis
9 eliminated alternative routes, because they were in
10 proximity to, but would not cross an unverified sand
11 resource area. The selection of the preferred route
12 was even noted by an Empire Wind's own -- own
13 analysis to have significant limitations.

14 The most glaring examples of these
15 were found in Section 3631 of Exhibit 3 of their
16 application which notes, the following impediments
17 related to the Riverside Boulevard corridor
18 associated with the proposed landfall.

19 The corridor is narrow and constantly
20 constrained by utility -- and constrained by utility
21 congestion, allowing limited space for siting of the
22 transition joint base and the duct banks within the
23 roadway. To have sufficient space for cable landfall
24 and the temporary workspace for cable landfall
25 activities they need the vacant parcel of land on the

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2 west side of Riverside Boulevard to be commercially
3 available and the necessary land rights obtained.

4 Empire Wind is still evaluating
5 whether an export cable landfall is practicable if
6 the export cables and cable landfall workspace is
7 limited to the public right-of-way. In that event,
8 it's anticipated that one of the export cable
9 circuits would require horizontal directional
10 drilling under an existing commercial building at the
11 southern end of Riverside Boulevard.

12 If the cable landfall is limited to
13 the public right-of-way, another potential limitation
14 is there may not be sufficient space for contingency
15 in the case of a horizontal directional drilling
16 failure along one or more of the export cable
17 alignments.

18 If a horizontal drilling attempt
19 fails, another attempt may be made along a parallel
20 alignment immediately adjacent, however, a separate
21 contingency landfall may then be required due to the
22 highly constrained spacing of the cables.

23 Since our beach is municipal parkland,
24 State legislation would be required for the
25 underground crossing of the beach for the underground

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2 cables. Long Beach received three land and water
3 conservation fund grants for the development of the
4 Long Beach boardwalk, dunes, and swimming facilities.

5 The New York State Office of Parks,
6 Recreation & Historic Preservation indicated that the
7 proposed landfall could impact these areas requiring
8 additional coordination with both them and the
9 National Park Service. Additionally, crossing
10 underneath a land and water conservation fund area
11 may result in additional regulatory challenges if a
12 federal conversion process is required.

13 A federal conversion process requires
14 the provision of the replacement property that is of
15 equal or greater fair market value and of reasonably
16 equivalent usefulness and location as the lands being
17 removed from outdoor recreational use.

18 This onshore workspace is in close
19 proximity to several -- to sensitive noise and air
20 quality receptors, including residences adjacent to
21 Riverside Boulevard. The cable landfall installation
22 would occupy space at the intersection of East
23 Broadway and Riverside Boulevard which would likely
24 require road closure, traffic impacts and disruption
25 of access to residential buildings for a prolonged

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2 period of 6 to 24 months.

3 Due to the space constraints limited
4 mitigation options exist for these potential noise
5 and traffic impacts. The Island Park substation will
6 adversely impact our bayside redevelopment area,
7 which I'll get into momentarily. There are also
8 numerous errors and omissions in the analysis of the
9 submarine cable alternatives.

10 But just in the interest of time, I'm
11 not going to address those here, we'll cover those in
12 subsequent filings that the city will make. It's
13 also worth noting that another company Embark has
14 proposed Long Beach as an alternate route for high
15 voltage D.C. transmission line, making landfall in
16 basically the same location.

17 Reasons Embark sites for Long Beach
18 not being a desirable landfall include that requiring
19 an interest to locate the landfall on parkland, would
20 require an act of the state legislature, which was
21 not be a certain undertaking.

22 In addition to that potentially fatal
23 flaw Long Beach is an extremely busy recreational
24 beach with an associated boardwalk and little
25 undeveloped upland area to accommodate the tran --

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2 transition of the high voltage D.C. land cable. The
3 horizontal drilling pits and staging areas needed at
4 the landfall location.

5 So while Embark uses this as
6 disqualifier for the route, these same issues apply
7 to Empire Wind Two. What I would like to do is
8 expand on the road closure in Bayside redevelopment
9 points I mean, because these are very important and
10 could be easily lost in a complicated process such as
11 this.

12 Long Beach is a major east west
13 thoroughfare for Queens and Nassau County traffic
14 along the south shore. Alternative routes to us
15 require going many miles north to an alternate route.
16 The two major east west routes through our city are
17 Park Avenue right out here and Broadway, which is
18 along the beach.

19 During recent data gathering for the
20 development of the city's new comprehensive plan, we
21 performed the traffic study of our central business
22 district. We found that approximately 30,000 cars a
23 day traverse Park Avenue on our central business
24 district. That technically makes Park Avenue a
25 freeway and not an avenue.

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2 While the traffic study didn't
3 evaluate Broadway, it is also a busy east west route
4 that's usually the alternative to Park Avenue and
5 it's very crowded itself. Closing Broadway at
6 Riverside Boulevard for even a few days rather than
7 the proposed 6 to 24 months would result in traffic
8 chaos in this city.

9 We saw this when some short-term road
10 closures on Broadway were done for construction of
11 the Superblock project between Riverside Boulevard
12 and Long Beach Road. This does not even include the
13 other road construction that would be taking place to
14 bury the transmission line under Broadway between
15 Riverside Boulevard and Lincoln Boulevard.

16 And this would be especially
17 exasperating during the beach season when traffic
18 goes up an order of magnitude. This is not just a
19 minor inconvenience. It can have major economic
20 impacts on this city. It could mean blocking or
21 limiting access to the only major parking area for
22 our beach.

23 Driving tourists to other beaches and
24 adversely impacting our beach revenue. Our beach is
25 expensive to operate and tourist revenue is crucial

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2 to make our beach financially viable. A reduction in
3 beach revenue means that financial burden has to be
4 shifted to the local taxpayers.

5 Finally, I'd like to address the
6 Island Park's substation and its impact on our bay --
7 Bayside redevelopment. Our city is making massive
8 investments in our Bayfront on the order of \$200
9 million. We're working to close our sewage treatment
10 plant and rerouting the discharge from our plant and
11 the Bay Park sewage treatment plant to an ocean
12 outflow.

13 This would end the discharging of over
14 70 million gallons of sewage effluent into Reynolds
15 Channel right here each and every day. This is one
16 of the largest environmental projects in Nassau
17 County in decades. Its purpose is to open a new --
18 open a new Bayfront area for land development.

19 Clean up the waters of the back bays
20 and help develop the county's proposed blue waste
21 system which is intended to encourage more
22 recreation, tourism, education, and community
23 development along the waterfront.

24 Additionally, the city has commenced a
25 \$40 million flood mitigation project in the same

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2 area, which includes bulkheading, catch basins and
3 pumps -- to do force pumping of flood water from the
4 city. This is intended to protect the public and
5 property from repeated flooding events and again make
6 this a developable area for recreation, business, and
7 residential uses.

8 Yet after years of planning, and
9 allocating funds and resources, and when the
10 implementation of the vision is within sight, Empire
11 Wind is proposing to put a waterfront substation
12 right in the middle of our redevelopment area.

13 So now instead of a peaceful
14 waterfront view, that would be a draw for development
15 and recreational use, people will be looking at a
16 large substation and listening to the associated
17 humming noise that typically goes along with that.
18 And anybody that works in this industry knows the
19 noise produced by a substation could be quite loud to
20 adjacent properties.

21 There's a constant humming or buzzing
22 noise that may be audible for several hundred feet.
23 The sound is especially noticeable during nighttime
24 hours when ambient noise levels are lower. And
25 additionally, light pollution from lights that may be

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2 there to deter vandalism and unauthorized
3 individuals, that also take away from the -- the
4 Bayfront area.

5 So once again, the routing of Empire
6 Wind Two transmission lines, it's going to have a
7 negative financial impact that are -- on our city and
8 negate years of work and massive financial
9 investments we've been making. Given both the near-
10 term and long-term negative financial impacts of the
11 transmission line traversing through our city, as
12 well as numerous other factors of concern that the
13 applicant has failed to adequately address, the city
14 council has concluded that the cable is detrimental
15 to the city and we vehemently oppose the proposed
16 route and ask the P.S.C. to reject the current
17 proposed route. Thank you.

18 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

19 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
20 speak is Robert Weltwea or Weltwea to be followed by
21 Mark Manas. Sorry about the pronunciation.

22 MR. WELTWEA: (unintelligible).

23 A.L.J. MORENO: Thanks.

24 MR. WELTWEA: Good afternoon. Thank
25 you for the opportunity to present. I am President

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2 of Operation Splash --

3 FROM THE FLOOR: (unintelligible).

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

5 MR. WELTWEA: -- volunteer cleanup
6 group and our whole purpose is to protect all marine
7 life out there. And I know there's a lot of
8 misinformation going around about whale deaths. And
9 as an independent group, we did a real deep dive into
10 looking into that, we you know, follow the science
11 and the data.

12 And we cannot find any correlation
13 between the whale deaths and the wind quality
14 operations out there. What I did learn was that
15 humpback whales don't have sonar. So yeah only two
16 mammals have sonar. So we learned a lot in our
17 research trying to come to a conclusion.

18 We do what we do in Operation Splash
19 because we love all marine life. Before I was an
20 environmental guy, at the same time I was an
21 electrician, construction electrician, I worked on a
22 lot of power plants, especially with the Barrett
23 Power Plant. I was general foreman of the across
24 sound cable. This is what an undersea cable looks
25 like.

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2 And I know that I'm not disparaging
3 Long Beach, you know, I get their concern. Because
4 E.M.F.s, unless you're an electrician, you don't
5 understand what they are about. And this is a
6 150,000 volt D.C. cable that'd be installed across
7 Long Island sound.

8 This is the main conductor in the
9 center and you can see these copper wires on the
10 outside shield. Those collect and capture the
11 E.M.F.s, and each other this cable, they go to
12 ground. Electricity always wants to go ground that's
13 what it does.

14 So we can in fact, you know, we can
15 get rid of these E.M.F. concerns. But I definitely
16 think that -- you know, they should talk to the
17 community and get a better understanding about how
18 it's going to be done, especially when you look at
19 the cable configuration when you twist the cables
20 that makes the E.M.F. cables even less of a concern.

21 So I guess we really need to get some
22 more children, we need renewable energy. If I were
23 the people of Long Beach, I would be way more worried
24 about the soot from the E.F. Barrett power plant,
25 especially in the wintertime when it's pounding away

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2 out there, trying to keep up and north winds are
3 blowing all over Long Beach. So --

4 MS. : Are you from Long Beach?

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Please do not
6 interrupt the speakers.

7 MR. WELTWEA: So we 100 percent
8 support the wind farm project. And we hope that it
9 can be worked out where everybody be at peace of mind
10 with the cable and the air. And like I said for
11 convenience, I live in Freeport, we get flooded all
12 the time. And it's just gotten worse the whole 67
13 years I've lived there.

14 We understand climate change, the
15 effect it has on marine life. And you know, it's --
16 it's going to be now or never. So we can't really
17 delay this project anymore. We have to jump into it
18 cautiously and I -- you know, I understand
19 electricity. So I just hope other people will take
20 the time to learn a little bit more about it, that
21 it's not a death sentence when you put a cable
22 nearby.

23 I spent my whole career in
24 transmission, substations, and power stations, so
25 there are ways that it can be done correctly. And I

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2 urge everybody to go that direction. Thank you.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.

5 Our next speaker is Mark Manas or Mark Manas. And

6 I'm sorry and to be followed by Tina Posteeli,

7 Posteeli.

8 MR. MANAS: Thank you very much for
9 your time.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

11 MR. MANAS: I'm really here just to
12 lend my support towards renewable energy, especially
13 wind energy. Now, I know there's a lot of concerns
14 in this area that I'm not really aware of, so I can
15 only comment on the fact that wind is great source of
16 alternative energy, I have solar panels, which do a
17 wonderful job. We have electric cars --

18 FROM THE FLOOR: Speak up.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: We can't hear you.

20 MR. MANAS: I'm sorry, say that again?

21 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

22 MR. MANAS: Okay. But we do have an
23 electric car and solar panels and I could see the
24 benefits of -- you know, these other alternate means
25 of energy. So I'd like to just quote that and the --

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2 the jobs that are going to be generated by the
3 production and the tax increases for the communities.

4 There is no such thing as, you know,
5 clean energy. If I built a fire to warm my facility,
6 I'd be creating some pollution, so you have to take
7 what is the best alternatives and the location is
8 wherever the best location is going to be. Thank you
9 very much.

10 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Mr. Manas.
12 Our next speaker will be Tina Posteeli. Sorry.

13 MS. POSTEELI: Yes.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

15 MS. POSTEELI: Hello, good afternoon.

16 A.L.J. MORENO: Good afternoon.

17 MS. POSTEELI: Can everybody hear me?

18 ALL: Yes.

19 MS. POSTEELI: Okay. Well, thank you
20 again for bringing this hearing to our community.
21 And I'm a city council person and a resident. And
22 I'd like to reaffirm that I am in favor of the
23 responsible development of renewable energy sources
24 to combat the climate crisis we're in.

25 That said on July 17th, as Council

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2 President Bendo stated, my fellow -- fellow council
3 members and I sent a letter to the governor, voicing
4 our opposition to this project. One of the main
5 reasons being the high voltage A.C. transmission
6 lines that are proposed to be run through our densely
7 populated community, the 34th most densely populated
8 community in the entire country.

9 And on top of that, this project
10 proposes to run the transmission line through one of
11 the most densely populated parts of our community.
12 And as a resident, I oppose this project. The
13 proposed plan poses significant risks to our
14 community safety, property values, and overall
15 quality of life.

16 In addition, it would pose an
17 additional burden on our already overburdened aging
18 infrastructure. There are alternative routes outside
19 of Long Beach that don't run through a residential
20 population that can mitigate these concerns and urge
21 -- I urge project developers to prioritize the
22 wellbeing and preferences of the residents.

23 Our community deserves thoughtful
24 consideration and respect in the planning process.
25 And these alternative routes must be explored in

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2 earnest to arrive at one that doesn't run through
3 Long Beach or a residential area. As it stands this
4 project poses an unnecessary threat and disruption to
5 our way of life. Thank you.

6 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
8 speaker is Helene Manas to be followed by Scott
9 Bechner.

10 MS. MANAS: Hi.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay.

12 MS. MANAS: Thank you for the
13 opportunity to speak. First, I want to say that I am
14 a big supporter of offshore wind. Climate change is
15 getting worse every year. Long Island is surrounded
16 by water and if you don't do something, it will be
17 underwater. Just think about Superstorm Sandy and
18 how many parts of Long Island were destroyed by the
19 storm.

20 What about all these big rainstorms
21 we've been having, where there has been flooding in
22 so many places. This is not a choice, this is a
23 necessity. Also, we have so much wind here out in
24 the ocean. Even when I go to Jones Beach, it is
25 always windy, it would be criminal to ignore how

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2 perfect putting the offshore wind here would be since
3 we have what is needed to produce so much clean
4 energy.

5 Long Island can be a tremendous force
6 for wind power. It will bring about -- according to
7 what I read, 20,000 well-paying union jobs I'm not
8 sure if that's accurate. Local colleges are already
9 training students to work in this field. Long Island
10 has the potential to be the biggest producer of clean
11 energy.

12 And we can lead our State to more
13 clean energy. Please approve this wind project so we
14 can move forward with the elimination of fossil
15 fuels, so we can save Long Island, New York State and
16 the planet. And I just want to say if I'm hearing of
17 people from Long Beach, I hope that they could come
18 up with an alternative route, so it could satisfy
19 everybody.

20 But I still think it should be approve
21 because it is such an important project and there is
22 so much wind to use. Thank you very much.

23 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

24 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
25 speaker is Spot -- Scott Bechner to be -- to be --

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2 sorry about that. To be followed by Richard Schurin.

3 MR. BECHNER: Hi.

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Hey there.

5 MR. BECHNER: Scott Bechner, thank
6 you.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Apologies.

8 MR. BECHNER: That's okay. I hope you
9 take advantage and go down to the beach. Okay. My
10 name is Scott Bechner and I've lived in Long Beach my
11 whole life. My wife lives -- lived in Long Beach her
12 whole life. My kids were born here and they have
13 started their own lives in Long Beach.

14 I am on the City of Long Beach
15 Environmental Advisory Board, a member of the Western
16 Days Coalition and a boat captain with Operation
17 Splash cleaning up the marshes that are right there.
18 I am here to support offshore wind. We need
19 alternatives to how we get our electricity.

20 The E.F. Barrett plant, which is only
21 three miles away from here in Island Park is really a
22 major polluter. The plant is over 60 years old with
23 very little upgrades. It sits on a water channel
24 with old rusting tanks holding fuel.

25 It's an environmental disaster waiting

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2 to happen. This plant is a major polluter of fossil
3 fuels and a major contributor to cli -- climate
4 change. It is an environmental killer and it
5 contributed to health issues in our area. We all see
6 the toxic black smoke coming from the smokestacks
7 daily.

8 That smoke falls to the ground and our
9 waterways which is a direct link to -- to a lot of
10 health issues. There are high levels of breast
11 cancer in the Baldwin, Oceanside, Island Park and
12 Long Beach areas. They call this area a hotspot.
13 Everyone in this room knows somebody who has
14 developed breast cancer.

15 There have been recent studies by high
16 school students and tested by Texas A&M and
17 Brookhaven Labs proving that there's mercury and it
18 claims it's caused by atmospheric fallout that's
19 coming from those smokestacks. We can all just
20 imagine what -- what it's doing to our vegetable
21 gardens and with these hazardous plumes.

22 The Barrett plant also sucks up bay
23 water to cool the generators, killing fish, fish eggs
24 and shellfish. The plant then discharges the water
25 back into the bay, which is now full of heavy metals.

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2 So it's a major water polluter. When we were kids
3 and we were growing up, we used to water ski all
4 around that area because it was warm water little did
5 we know what we were waterskiing in.

6 PSE&G promised to upgrade the Barrett
7 plant when they took over from LIPA years ago, with
8 air cooled, high efficient engines, but they never
9 did. Actually, the (unintelligible) to sit in at
10 those meetings with us legislative for it, but they
11 never did that.

12 This is here and now the Barrett plant
13 is a major polluter in our backyard that is our
14 single source of electricity that is dependent on
15 fossil fuel. The plant is destroying the health,
16 adding to climate change, which in Long Beach after
17 Sandy we all should be very concerned about.

18 Offshore wind is a proven technology,
19 wind is a carbon -- wind is a carbon and pollution
20 free source of power. Wind is a local resource that
21 does not depend on foreign dictators or fossil fuel
22 bill -- billionaires. This project will create the
23 opportunity for thousands of short and long-term
24 skilled jobs.

25 I personally like seeing the turbines

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2 spinning in Lido. Unfortunately, the ocean turbines
3 will be very far away and we'll -- and we'll barely
4 see them from land. But that's -- that's just me.
5 But if we did, it will be a much better sight than
6 the black smoke, which is killing and spewing us on
7 those stacks every day.

8 Again, we need alternatives to what we
9 have now and offshore wind is a proven technology
10 locally and around the world and is part of the
11 solution. But listening to everybody today, it's
12 obvious that they're not against offshore wind and
13 they're not and they understand climate change.

14 We just need to move that cable. So I
15 think that Equinor should dig deep in their pockets.
16 And they should move that where it's a non -- where
17 it's not so congested and people will be happy, we
18 can shut down that plant, because it's killing us.
19 So we have -- we have alternatives to stop this.

20 But we have a cable that's running
21 through that people don't want, so make it happen,
22 just move it. It just costs more -- more money, but
23 in the long run, you're going to make the money. So
24 let's make this happen. Thank you for listening to
25 me.

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2 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
3 speaker is Richard Schurin, to be followed by Jim
4 Brown.

5 MR. SCHURIN: Good afternoon. I'm
6 affiliated with the Island Park Civic Association
7 Committee, which is a party to this proceeding. But
8 I'm speaking today on behalf of myself.

9 FROM THE FLOOR: Can you speak up a
10 little clear?

11 MR. SCHURIN: Sure. I'm affiliated
12 with the Island Park Civic Association Committee,
13 which is a party to this proceeding. But this
14 afternoon, I'm speaking on behalf of myself. Thank
15 you for coming to this host community, to Long Beach.
16 I grew up here in Long Beach. And then, myself and
17 my wife, we moved to Island Park, where we raised our
18 two children.

19 My first comment relates to something
20 that's not specifically at issue in the Article 7
21 proceeding. But I think it's still very, very
22 important. It's the industrialization of the ocean.
23 This really is this -- I know this is just one of
24 many projects. But this represents the
25 industrialization of the ocean to me.

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2 The ocean to me, especially as a young
3 child, as I think back, it's the wilderness. It's
4 the one last wilderness place that we have, that
5 humans haven't truly ruined. As a young child, I
6 would sit on it -- sit on the beach and look out and,
7 you know, you think about life, it's very
8 therapeutic. And many, many people do this. You do
9 it growing up.

10 And that's why you hear many people
11 say they want to live near the ocean. So no matter
12 what happens, I understand that offshore wind is
13 going forward. Something is being lost. Something
14 very significant to me and to a lot of people and I
15 imagine to you as well is being lost.

16 So even though that's not directly at
17 play here in the Article 7 proceeding, I think it's
18 still important to consider when I talk about the
19 next point, which is some of the issues that people
20 have already spoken about. So the second point I
21 want to make relates to my current home community of
22 Island Park.

23 Island Park is also a waterfront
24 community just like Long Beach. If you look out the
25 window and I please ask you to do that, when you take

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2 a break, you can see the marina, it's very clear,
3 just past the water plant, where the Pops substation
4 will be.

5 And literally, you know, right behind
6 it, you can see the huge E.F. Barrett Plant. So if
7 this project goes forward, Island Park will be
8 literally bordered by two industrial sites. People
9 call it industrial park, but it's not really a joke
10 if you live there.

11 And we know, I guess, I've lived there
12 now for 20 years, I raised my family in Island Park.
13 We know what it's like as a host community to suffer
14 the -- you know, the -- endure the -- the problems
15 that a host community suffers when you have a power
16 plant in your community. You get used to it -- you
17 get used to looking -- looking at it when you live
18 here, but to other people, it's -- it's quite
19 startling.

20 You see -- you see a huge power plant
21 very close to home. And the pollution, the Barrett
22 power plant, I imagine you know this, it's the
23 oldest, most polluting power plant on Long Island, if
24 not New York. It really is a major polluter. Mr.
25 Bechner spoke about it earlier, but it truly is.

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2 So we know what it's like to endure
3 that. And -- and recently, as I think the mayor
4 indicated, we suffered the -- the -- I don't know,
5 indignity of the power plant owner, National Grid and
6 LIPA, they filed a tax cert proceeding against us to
7 reduce their taxes by 90 percent. That power plant
8 supplies 45 percent of the tax revenue to our school
9 district, they pay 45 percent of the tax money.

10 They filed a tax cert case 10 years
11 ago to reduce that obligation by 90 percent. It went
12 through the courts in 2021 I believe, the county --
13 because the county was a party. They settled the
14 case with LIPA under the gun. And as a result, we're
15 losing about 50 percent of the tax revenue from --
16 from the Barrett power plant.

17 The -- the Island Park School
18 District, which receives 45 percent of its tax
19 revenue from the Barrett Plant, that's going to be
20 reduced 50 percent. The county presentation, all of
21 our school tax is going up thousands and thousands of
22 dollars, that's what's going to happen. We want a
23 glide path, it's just starting now.

24 But in five years, all of us that live
25 there, the homeowners and businesses our taxes that

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2 are going to go up thousands and thousands of
3 dollars. And I mentioned this just to give you a
4 taste of, you know, what -- what -- who we are and --
5 and -- and how this is going to impact us. And I
6 think it's why they were originally -- I think the
7 mayor referred to this.

8 They were invited to come to our
9 community to help us with -- to bridge the gap in
10 lost tax revenue as a result of the Barrett
11 settlement. So we're basically -- we're extremely
12 suffering community and getting back to the host
13 community concept I know -- I know I raised this
14 before the prior public hearing.

15 I -- I believe that a utility has
16 legal and moral obligations to host communities.
17 They -- they site their facilities here. And it's a
18 privilege for them. Nobody wants a power plant or a
19 substation or cables to run into their community.

20 They have legal and moral obligations
21 to the citizens of this community, who are hosting
22 their utilities which allows them to generate a huge
23 amount of revenue. So in the Article 7 process and
24 as you consider whatever is presented to you in the
25 settlement or if things are contested. I asked you

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2 to please take into account the interests of the
3 community especially that in our community.

4 We may come to you with requests that
5 -- that everyone has not agreed to. Please keep in
6 mind the situation for us and once again, please look
7 out the window so you can see exactly what our
8 community looks like. Thank you very much.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
11 speaker is Jim Brown, to be followed by Crystal Lake.

12 MR. BROWN: Hello, Judges. Happy to
13 be here. My name is Jim Brown. I'm here on my own
14 behalf and also on behalf of the Green Party of
15 Nassau County and the South Shore Audubon Society. I
16 -- I lived in Long Beach from 1993 to 2012 when me
17 and my wife were forced to stay with relatives and
18 friends after Sandy, and then we later moved to
19 Island Park, and we've been living in Island Park
20 ever since, in the shadow of the Barrett plant. A
21 little bit closer to it than -- than our mayor, but
22 that's where we live. And I'm here to support
23 offshore wind, a project such as Empire Wind Two
24 should not be unduly delayed and certainly not
25 stopped.

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2 This project has actually been
3 discussed for years. In 2015 for the South Shore
4 Audubon Society, we got a grant from the National
5 Audubon to study the impact of offshore wind on birds
6 and other wildlife and the -- the area that we
7 studied was the New York Flyway and Empire Wind.

8 It's been going on for a long time,
9 and hopefully it will finally be realized. And
10 Public Service Commission Article 7 hearings today
11 appear primarily with Empire Wind's transmission
12 infrastructure within New York State's land and
13 water.

14 And regarding the developer's
15 preferred cable route, it is highly beneficial that
16 the route avoids impacts on tidal wetlands, thereby
17 preserving habitat and wildlife. Wetlands provide
18 nurseries for fish. So important for the local
19 fishing and restaurant industries, as well as
20 preserving critical habitat for numerous bird
21 species.

22 Wetlands also improve water quality in
23 our bays by filtering pollutants. And Long Island
24 has lost almost half of its wetlands since the early
25 1900s. A loss of approximately 39,000 acres. This

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2 trend of wetlands decline destroys wildlife and
3 ecological diversity and makes it also harder for
4 local communities to survive severe weather events
5 impacting our shores.

6 Wetlands are critical in mitigating
7 flooding from storm surges and ongoing sea level
8 rise. It is estimated that coastal wetlands saved
9 approximately 625 million dollars in property damage
10 along the east coast just during Hurricane Sandy.
11 The fact that there were, even though stressed
12 wetlands, there were wetlands, and they must be
13 preserved.

14 Empire Wind -- Wind Two's basic plans
15 merit support, even if certain details may have to be
16 tweaked or refined going forward. Equinor, the
17 developer, should address these possible issues as
18 they arise, so that we finally get the offshore wind
19 energy we desperately need, electricity produced
20 efficiently and with the least amount of
21 environmental impacts, the least amount of possible
22 negative impacts on the environment, wildlife, and
23 people.

24 Regarding the transmission route that
25 I've discussed, you have to remember that wetlands,

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2 aside from saving property, save lives. They are
3 necessary for the areas across and around Long Beach,
4 and -- and they should be protected.

5 And again, I'm happy to see that the
6 preferred route does not impact negatively the -- the
7 wetlands that we so desperately need to preserve on
8 Long Island. Thank you.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
11 speaker is Crystal Lake, to be followed by Beverly
12 Lap -- Lapidula (ph). Sorry about the pronunciation.

13 MS. LAKE: Good afternoon, Your Honors

14 --

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Good afternoon.

16 MS. LAKE: -- and Commissioner,
17 ladies. I'm a long-time resident --

18 A.L.J. MORENO: I'm sorry. Can I just
19 ask you? Thank you.

20 MS. LAKE: I'm a long-time resident of
21 the City of Long Beach, New York. If I may give you
22 an overview. Okay. Yes, we all are aware that we
23 need to address global warming, sea level rise, and
24 climate change, and the devastating impacts that have
25 been occurring for decades.

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2 Manmade decisions that are initially
3 thought to be good, in the end, maybe not as good, or
4 not at all. On the ocean side of our City of Long
5 Beach, we had ocean dumping. That was banned. We
6 had the horror site, the historic area of remediation
7 site that was highly polluted and contaminated.

8 Currently, there is the Rockaway
9 Lateral. In addition to the Rockaway Lateral, we
10 have a subsea pipeline, Williams Transco, gas,
11 transcontinental gas pipeline, a subsea pipeline that
12 comes in on Long Beach Road. It veers, transverses
13 down Long Beach Road over to the Bayside.

14 Now I'm mentioning this because there
15 are so many components that are within this barrier
16 island. The City of Long Beach is a barrier island.
17 On the Bayside, where I grew up in the community or
18 neighborhood of North Park we have multiple power
19 plants.

20 Okay. The first one is the National
21 Grid Williams Transco 59-102-1, which is inclusive of
22 an electric substation and three or four gas feeders.
23 It's a main distribution hub that serves a
24 tremendous, I believe it's 60% of Nassau County.

25 Next to that, on the opposite side,

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2 there's another electric substation. 59-79-103,
3 which was formerly Queensborough Gas and Electric.
4 So there -- right there are two major components. In
5 addition to that, there was a former incinerator
6 site. 59-79-505. I grew up in all of this.

7 Okay. The horrendous floods that has
8 gone on since I can remember, since the age of 4.
9 The North Shore Critical Infrastructure Project,
10 which President Bendo just recently spoke about, is
11 by an E.P.A. letter. It specifically states, that
12 project's principal purpose was to protect the North
13 Park community from future flooding, as well as the
14 city's critical infrastructure.

15 All of the city's critical
16 infrastructure is along the Bayside and is the lowest
17 elevation. Next to the Long Beach Bridge, the
18 proposed subterranean cable will lie beneath there,
19 next to the Transco pipeline in very extremely close
20 proximity.

21 Now having said all of that, being
22 exposed to dioxin 15 times higher than E.P.A.
23 standards, mercury, lead, cadmium. I've submitted
24 that supporting documentation in an email to Your
25 Honors. There has been, first I must say that

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2 destroying the seabed, that's absolutely ridiculous.
3 There are so many times when progress means well, and
4 then the end result, it comes back to bite us or
5 haunt us.

6 Which, in this scenario, we are a
7 barrier island, approximately 146 to 147 wind
8 turbines. That is a Goliath, I must say so myself.
9 The community benefits that were offered were
10 disgraceful. I submitted -- I'm not a lawyer, I'm
11 not trying to be, but I did submit a community
12 benefit package that I thought would have been
13 acceptable across the board for all.

14 I rarely heard anything back. I hear
15 about meetings that Equinor has with different
16 entities within the community -- within the
17 community. There is so much going on and, you know,
18 whether the cables are A.C., D.C., Tesla, Edison, and
19 look where we are now.

20 So having said that, I think that the
21 transparency component, the expeditious moving
22 forward of this project, we're going into the
23 unknown. We truly are. You can say projects were
24 over here, over there. Okay, but we don't know the
25 entire outcome of the projects, and any potential

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2 impacts.

3 I do understand everyone's concerned
4 about the cables residing or close to their homes.
5 But I must say, I am an environmental justice
6 advocate. I do stand on the auspices of Presidential
7 Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice, federal
8 actions to address low to moderate income
9 neighborhoods that have been disproportionately
10 burdened and underserved re -- irregardless of race.

11 So let me make that perfectly clear.
12 National origin. If anyone is in that position, they
13 should not bear any additional burden, particularly
14 in this aspect. Long Beach is my home. It's a
15 beautiful city. I plan on dying here. I have
16 relatives in Island Park. I have, my grandson's
17 fiancée lives in Oceanside.

18 So I do have a vested interest here.
19 And I asked questions and I can't disclose anything
20 because I signed a confidentiality agreement. I'm
21 not getting the answers, all of the answers. Okay.
22 They're -- how should I say? Around the bush, they
23 beat around the bush. I ask how close is this, how
24 close is that.

25 Can I just get a straightforward

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2 answer? I'm a lay person. I don't understand. So
3 unfortunately, you may have to take additional time
4 and explain the process. It's moving forward like a
5 speeding train, and it's quite unfortunate.

6 There is so much documentation that
7 must be reviewed and understood, and there is not
8 ample time for that. And we are definitely behind
9 the eight ball. Okay. We're trying to play catch
10 up. It's like David and Goliath, but I believe in
11 David. So thank you ladies for your time. Have a
12 blessed day.

13 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
15 speaker is Beverly Lapidula. Kelly Ann Foster?

16 MS. FOSTER: Good afternoon. My name
17 is Kelly Ann Foster. I'm a resident of Island Park.
18 And I thank you all for coming today. Did you get to
19 look around?

20 A.L.J. MORENO: Indeed.

21 MS. FOSTER: Did you review the route
22 and all that stuff?

23 A.L.J. MORENO: Nope, not yet.

24 MS. FOSTER: Okay. Thanks. I want to
25 confine my statement today to one very narrow aspect

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2 of the application. I've made public comment before.
3 I've written public comment. So I want to respect
4 everyone's time --

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

6 MS. FOSTER: -- and keep it short.
7 Okay. According to the handbook on the Article 7
8 website, Article 7 provides opportunities for
9 individual and group stakeholders having an interest
10 in the project to participate in the review of an
11 application.

12 The primary proposed location and
13 alternative locations listed, appearance, cost and
14 construction and maintenance practices, as well as
15 the need for the facility are all subject to review.
16 And it's my understanding that residents are
17 stakeholders. Is that correct?

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Uh-huh.

19 MS. FOSTER: Okay. I want to focus on
20 costs. When it comes -- when I reviewed the
21 application back when it was first published in 2021,
22 Exhibit 9 proposed costs was redacted from the public
23 view. If cost is one of the aspects, the public is
24 allowed to give comment on in reviewing the
25 application.

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2 And then weighing the need of the
3 application against the cost benefits and benefits.
4 We need to see the costs.

5 MR.: We need to see what?

6 MS. FOSTER: Costs.

7 MR.: Oh, costs. Excuse me.

8 MS. FOSTER: How much it costs.

9 MR.: Yeah, yeah. I'm with you.

10 MS. FOSTER: Okay. By redacting that
11 from the public view, we are unable to comment on
12 that. And I want to take it one step further. It
13 was redacted from the public view in 2021 when the
14 application was first filed, and it continues to be
15 redacted now in 2023 with the revised application.

16 And right now the costs are very much
17 at issue because we're reviewing, New York State is
18 reviewing the idea of renegotiating the service
19 agreement. So if we, the public, can't compare
20 historically what the original costs were estimated
21 to be to the costs that they estimate them to be now,
22 one-and-a-half, two years later, how can we evaluate
23 on the other matter before the Public Service
24 Commission that these costs are indeed escalated?

25 All of that has been redacted from the

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2 public view. I submit it's not fair and it's not
3 right. The public has a right to know how much this
4 -- this is estimated to cost, so that we can evaluate
5 whether it's worth doing at all.

6 And it's not even consistent across
7 applications before the Commission. Anbaric, the
8 Juno Project, their public costs are not redacted.
9 So I fail to see the logic. They must be consistent
10 across applications.

11 If the public is entitled to know the
12 general costs and their estimates, I don't know how
13 much each widget costs. So I can't somehow steal the
14 trade secret by knowing the cost. These are costs in
15 the aggregate. It won't -- what trade secret would be
16 blocked if we know that it costs 8 billion to build
17 the substation.

18 We can pretty much guess it costs a
19 lot of money. But we do -- we are entitled to know
20 how much. And we are entitled to know what it will
21 cost to get the right of ways. Or it will cost to
22 have legal counsel to work this process.

23 All of these costs are important to
24 the project. They're important to the public. And I
25 ask the Commission to consider making those costs

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2 public. Thank you.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
5 speaker is Fred Zalchan, to be followed by Theresa
6 Moran.

7 MR. ZALCHAN: A.L.J. Moreno,
8 Commissioner Burman, thank you for allowing me to
9 testify here today in support of the Article 7
10 application from Empire Wind. My name is Fred
11 Zalchan. I'm the director of the New York Offshore
12 Wind Alliance.

13 We're a collaboration of the world's
14 leading developers of offshore wind projects,
15 national environmental N.G.O.s, organized labor and
16 others all collaborating to support the development
17 of a robust and responsible offshore wind market in
18 New York State.

19 Now I appreciate the -- the comments
20 and concerns raised by -- by the residents and having
21 practiced before the Public Service Commission for
22 more than 25 years, I have great confidence in the
23 professionalism and subject matter expertise of the
24 D.P.S. staff that they have the capability to suss
25 out those claims.

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2 What I do want to offer is that Empire
3 Wind is a transformative clean energy project and
4 does warrant issuance of a Certificate of
5 Environmental Compatibility and Public Need under
6 Article 7. First, the -- the project will make a
7 significant down payment towards the State's efforts
8 to decarbonize its grid by 2040 and reach its
9 technology specific target of nine gigawatts of
10 offshore wind by 2035 as required by the C.L.C.P.A.

11 This step -- this project is an
12 important step forward in addressing the considerable
13 risks to New York's coastal communities posed by
14 climate change. Second, the project's an important
15 driver of New York's clean energy economy with new
16 pre-assembly and O&M facilities centered at the South
17 Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, Brooklyn,
18 the project will help revitalize and modernize New
19 York's port infrastructure and create hundreds of
20 family sustaining jobs.

21 Third, the project will support new
22 manufacturing, particularly in the capital district,
23 with the nation's first tower fabrication plant at
24 the Port of Albany, and demonstrates its significant
25 economic benefits of the offshore wind industry

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2 across the entire State of New York.

3 Fourthly, the project will invest
4 hundreds of millions of dollars in New York's
5 transmission system, bringing power directly into the
6 high electricity demand areas of Long Island and the
7 boroughs of New York City, and enhancing the
8 resiliency and reliability of the Downstate grid.

9 And last but not least, the project is
10 a significant step forward in righting New York's
11 efforts to right past environmental injustices by
12 facilitating the closure of aging fossil plants
13 responsible for significant public health impacts and
14 premature deaths, all while creating lasting value
15 and opportunities for the communities in which the
16 project operates.

17 Thank you for allowing me the
18 opportunity to share these views with you.

19 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

20 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
21 speaker is Theresa Moran.

22 MS. SARAFIN: Theresa left and said I
23 could take her spot. Is that okay?

24 A.L.J. MORENO: And you are? I'm
25 sorry.

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2 MS. SARAFIN: I'm Jennifer Sarafin.

3 I'm down on the list, okay?

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Sure.

5 MS. SARAFIN: I'm Jennifer Sarafin.

6 I'm down on the list. Okay. I want to start out
7 with saying hello, good afternoon, Your Honors, and
8 welcome to our beautiful beach community. Hopefully
9 you will have some --.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: My understanding is
11 she's taking the spot of Ms. Moran.

12 MS. SARAFIN: I've been here the whole
13 time.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: In any event. Please
15 proceed.

16 MS. SARAFIN: Good afternoon, Your
17 Honors and welcome to our beautiful beach community.
18 I hope you do get some time to enjoy outside and get
19 to enjoy our beautiful beaches and see how beautiful
20 Long Beach is.

21 I've been here 27 years ago where I
22 met my husband and I bought my father's house. I
23 left here and I came back because I wanted to raise
24 my children here. When I was pregnant, I came back
25 from Florida. I don't want to sell my house, but if

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2 this project goes through, I will.

3 And all these people who don't live
4 here and tell you how wonderful this project is,
5 they'll be welcome to buy it, because they can live
6 on the cable route, because I will not be living on
7 it. We are happy to have you here. We hope you have
8 a good chance to enjoy it on this gorgeous day.

9 But as you can see, there's many of us
10 who live here, and nobody who lives here wants this
11 project, as you can see by the 10,000 signatures that
12 we've had signed. I am one of the many people who
13 found out about this because Equinor kept it very
14 quiet because they have not been a good neighbor.

15 And we didn't really realize what was
16 going on until recently, myself and many others came
17 together. We formed a community and we started
18 hitting the streets to get people to find out. We've
19 educated people. We've hired a lawyer. We've done
20 everything we can to try to stop this project.

21 As you can see, there's a lot of
22 emotion and a lot of heart in this place. We do not
23 accept this. Equinor is not a good neighbor. Not
24 many people who live here want this project. They
25 want to come through our streets, ravage our

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2 community and our beautiful, pristine beaches.

3 They have been sneaky. They have lied
4 on the Article 7. They have not been honest and
5 they've asked you to disregard our opinions. That is
6 what is so upsetting more than anything. I have
7 gotten four emails in the last two days, asking me to
8 come and voice my opinion.

9 But what is interesting, I also got an
10 email from their lawyer that was sent to you saying
11 not to regard our opinions if it's about the rate
12 hikes, that you were supposed to disregard that.
13 Because I know because I'm on the article that they
14 sent to you, please don't have any opinions about us
15 voicing our opinion about the rate hikes at all when
16 you're going to have your meeting tomorrow.

17 That they asked you to disregard all
18 of our statements about the rate hikes, which I find
19 extremely fascinating, considering they want only
20 positive opinions. Because when you go on their
21 website, you can only comment if you want to comment
22 positively.

23 That is certainly not a good neighbor.
24 When our local government tried to stop the ability
25 for the bill, they went around them, and they went to

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2 Brooklyn as our -- our assemblyman explained to you,
3 and they did a sneaky, sneaky thing to try to
4 alienate our homeland.

5 A senator from Brooklyn and the
6 lobbyists tried to pass the bill through. Again,
7 that is not a good neighbor. They have also hired
8 unions and lobbyists to come here and lie and
9 intimidate the public. They have gone above and --
10 and also other things that have been going on, which
11 I know we're not supposed to speak about.

12 They have found many, many things that
13 they've gone above the decibels. They can keep
14 saying misinformation, the whales aren't dying, but
15 none of the necropsies can test their ears to show
16 what's going on when they're deafened.

17 So IVO keeps saying, watch Thrown to
18 the Wind, look at Michael Schellenberger, he's going
19 to Congress. Eventually it will be proven that the
20 marine life is being affected by this. Because, have
21 you ever seen this many whales wash up in your
22 lifetime? You're going to tell me all of a sudden
23 the last year it's because of climate change?

24 And to go to climate change, I agree.
25 I have solar on my house. I love solar. Put solar

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2 on everybody's house. I don't pay an electric bill.
3 But this is not the way. These are not clean.
4 They're not green. They use fossil fuels. They use
5 bison- -- that stuff that Ari was talking about.

6 Then when it gets in the ocean, it's
7 going to go into our bodies. It's going to go into
8 the fish. Again, I -- I -- I am all for renewable,
9 but this is not the renewable way to go. They want
10 to waive the ordinances. That's the other thing.
11 They keep saying our ordinances are too restrictive
12 for them.

13 So they should be allowed to waive
14 them. They want to make noise from 05:00 a.m. to
15 09:00 p.m. They are not good neighbors. We live
16 here. We are the people who should count. This is a
17 foreign company coming into our town. And it's all
18 about the almighty dollar.

19 And they don't care about the rate
20 increases. Let them pay the rate increases then.
21 And also, I want them to look at -- I want -- would
22 like you to look at what happened yesterday. At
23 about 03:00 p.m., a 137 comments dropped into the
24 public comment thing and they were all the same
25 letter.

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2 I can -- I don't want to waste your
3 time reading it. I printed it. I'm going to give it
4 to you. All the addresses were not from Long Beach
5 and all the people were between 60 and 80. So I
6 don't know who they are. I don't know if it's fraud,
7 but we will be looking into it because if it was, our
8 lawyer will have it taken off the record.

9 But I printed the letter and I printed
10 all the addresses and none are from Long Beach, none
11 are from Island Park, none are from Lido, none are
12 from Atlantic Beach, none are from here. So that's
13 all for you. I also have the letter printed from the
14 city council that was sent to the governor. None of
15 this is feasible.

16 We are all for renewable. We are --.

17 A.L.J. MORENO: Ms. Sarafin, I'm
18 sorry.

19 MS. SARAFIN: I want to --

20 A.L.J. MORENO: I'll ask you to wrap
21 up. We do have other people here.

22 MS. SARAFIN: Yes, I do. So I have
23 all this for you. I also would like to say that
24 Operation Splash came up here to talk. They also
25 have -- there's a lot of companies that have come to

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2 talk that if you do your research, they have taken
3 money from Equinor. So thank you very much for your
4 time.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
6 speaker is Tony Egan (ph), to be followed by Jill
7 Capozzi.

8 MS. ZELLINGER: Hi. Unfortunately,
9 I'm another switch also. Two people left. I'm
10 Jennifer Zellinger. I'm on the list.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: I'm sorry.

12 MS. ZELLINGER: We arranged it with
13 them because of our schedules. I'm sorry. It will
14 be less than a minute.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Are you speaking for
16 Tony Egan?

17 MS. ZELLINGER: Tony Egan.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: Are you speaking on
19 her behalf?

20 MS. ZELLINGER: No.

21 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay. Then I'm going
22 to ask you to wait and we'll get to the next person.

23 MS. ZELLINGER: But you're closing
24 out?

25 A.L.J. MORENO: We are not. There --

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2 we have time left. I understand that there's a lot
3 of people waiting. We have a lot of cards here.

4 MS. ZELLINGER: Less than a minute.
5 No?

6 A.L.J. MORENO: No. We have a lot of
7 cards left. And we will, again -- all right. I need
8 everyone to come to order. We are trying to spend as
9 much of our time listening to you rather than
10 bickering. Our next speaker is Jill Capozzi.

11 Okay. Eric Berkowitz.

12 MR. BERKOWITZ: Good afternoon. So
13 this is a public forum for whom? I see one Public
14 Service Commission Commissioner here.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Uh-huh.

16 MR. BERKOWITZ: So this is really an
17 appeal to you, I -- I -- I guess and I -- I saw Mr.
18 Mulfetter (ph) from Equinor. Who else is from
19 Equinor here to hear the community? Is there anybody
20 from Equinor here to hear the community? Okay.

21 A.L.J. MORENO: In any event, sir.

22 MR. BERKOWITZ: Okay. So they're here
23 and they left. So clearly, what we have to say is
24 perhaps not important to them. But first, to be
25 clear, is that renewable energy is not free energy.

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2 In fact, it's a very expensive proposition.

3 I suggest Equinor will attempt to go
4 back to the State for an increase in their
5 agreements. Due to the increase in material costs
6 and -- and -- and other international events, just as
7 a wind developer in New Jersey did two months ago,
8 and got an additional billion dollars from the State.

9 Now who pays for that? The ratepayers
10 do. I do. Everybody in this room does. But this
11 project is likely to go ahead. And the fact is,
12 renewable power is very necessary to be part of our
13 grid. There's no doubt about that.

14 This is not about -- this project is
15 on federal land, that's already been leased out, I
16 guess, or subject to this approval. But that's been
17 done. This is about what New York State and then our
18 local community is faced with.

19 Wind energy is being pushed by -- by
20 New York State. The city, New York City, and the
21 State are rushing to decarbonize. Regardless of your
22 political positions, you know, understand that this
23 huge push to decarbonize is actually very poorly
24 planned.

25 And certainly, Manhattan is very

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2 poorly planned. It's not realistic for -- for the
3 fundamental need of reliable power. And it's very
4 expensive. But this forum is about the local impact
5 to our community. Okay.

6 More specifically, running a high
7 tension, high power wires in the middle of Long
8 Beach. As I see it, this project has something about
9 140 turbines, each spaced a mile apart. And
10 understanding the wiring, there's more than 200 miles
11 of wires with six wires that are local, and three
12 going -- about three going through Long Beach.

13 That's it. Three miles. This forms
14 about the three miles or so of the wiring going
15 through Long Beach. Not, I don't think it's about
16 the project itself. The project is over 300 million
17 dollars and this local wiring has got to be less than
18 1% of the cost of this project.

19 Okay? So I heard that other routes
20 were considered routes that were unobtrusive. But
21 because of the higher cost, the higher cost that --
22 that -- that Equinor didn't estimate, that they want
23 to run the lines at the lowest possible cost through
24 the town.

25 Okay. So how much are these other

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2 higher costs? If we went around, what are those
3 other costs worth? How much more could it be? 1%, 2
4 million, 3 million dollars on a project that's 300
5 million dollars?

6 So really, what it is, is it's about
7 money. It's about them not wanting to put up the
8 extra dollars to make this project and satisfy our
9 community. You know, when Mr. Bolfeldner showed us
10 how great Equinor is, and no doubt they're a world
11 leader.

12 Many projects built all over the world
13 with access to every high tech piece of equipment
14 that you're putting out in the middle of the ocean.
15 They can't find a piece of construction equipment
16 that could manage their way into the channel, a
17 shallow water.

18 They can't build something or get
19 something built that could satisfy that need of
20 bringing in those wires underneath and -- and bring
21 it around the sound. Why not? Because it's really
22 just about the money.

23 They didn't estimate and they figure
24 they could maybe ramrod this through the Commission
25 and -- and -- and attempt to -- and to attempt to

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2 beat Long Beach with -- with no community activity.
3 And we've seen 10,000 signatures. You see 10,000
4 signatures. It's a city of about 30,000.

5 And as a gentleman -- a woman showed,
6 12,000 voted, 10,000 are signing signatures. This
7 town is opposed to running the wires through the
8 community. I don't. There are people that may
9 object to the project, and the need for the wind
10 power, but renewable energy, as we say, is very
11 necessary for -- for the grid.

12 But let's do it responsibly and fairly
13 to our community. So as I understood it, Long Beach,
14 and Mr. Netanyahu would say, you know, I think we had
15 some agreement or had some more legal issue that we
16 want in the town of Long Beach to yay or nay this
17 project.

18 So it's not conscionable to me to
19 think that Equinor couldn't think about what affects
20 the community because the legal challenges that we
21 now have the right to do would delay the project and
22 cost more money than it's probably worth to figure
23 this alternate route.

24 So finally, as -- as a visual and a
25 health consideration, you know, this wiring goes four

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2 feet below the ground, which, as I heard, requires an
3 extensive dewatering because our water table is
4 pretty high.

5 So we're talking four feet or so below
6 grade that's going to -- I don't know what that does
7 to the ground underneath houses and in -- and the
8 medians and then the streets when you dewater, you're
9 affecting the -- the structure of the -- of the city,
10 of the streets, rather.

11 So but -- but four feet underground is
12 equivalent to 50 feet of high tension wires made
13 overhead. I don't know, you know, and that's what we
14 see on the highways. We see this high-tension wire.
15 Essentially, we'll be living with high tension wires
16 over our head.

17 Regardless of whether it's four feet
18 under the ground or 50 feet over, it has the same
19 E.M.G. and -- and all that calculation. So -- so
20 that's a visual. I -- I hope you can see and
21 appreciate all of the residents of Long Beach. Thank
22 you.

23 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

24 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
25 speaker is Spencer Teplin, to be followed by Keith

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2 Mack.

3 MR. TEPLIN: I want to thank the
4 Commission for letting me speak. I did have
5 something written, but I, after hearing all these
6 comments today, I just want to quickly say --

7 AUDIENCE: Can't hear you.

8 MR. TEPLIN: I'm sorry. Is this any
9 better?

10 AUDIENCE: Yes.

11 MR. TEPLIN: Great. I'm very much in
12 favor of renewable energy, a green energy
13 transmission and offshore wind, solar and onshore
14 wind. But we will always have fossil fuels. We'll
15 need them for lubrication, for making plastics and
16 other products. I am just hopeful that we will not
17 be burning them for power and heat in my lifetime.
18 And that's why I'm here to speak.

19 Again, I'm in favor of offshore wind.
20 And I just feel that today I've heard a lot of
21 things. And I implore this committee to do some real
22 fact checking, really get deep with your experts
23 because there's been a lot of things said here.

24 I applaud the woman who quoted PubMed.
25 She did the research. She found relevant materials.

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2 And then there's been other things like the
3 aesthetics of how far out these windmills will be. I
4 don't know if the people who are upset about the
5 aesthetics protested against the shipping lanes.

6 Because as a kid on Long Beach, I
7 didn't see almost like expressway traffic with
8 tankers going past. So again, that's an opinion more
9 than a fact. And that's what I implore this
10 Commission to do is get some good facts to make this
11 decision.

12 I do not envy anyone up there because
13 you -- there will be people who will be very upset
14 with your decisions and things, but try to make them
15 based on fact and not people's opinions. And it's
16 not that they have bad opinions, they're entitled to
17 them.

18 But you know, we do need to do
19 something. There are too many issues that we're
20 living with now with the air quality, the water
21 quality and green energies are important to that.
22 But again, the community has to also be respected.
23 And thank you for your time.

24 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

25 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next

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2 speaker is Keith Mack. Dana Czvekus. Alexis Pace.

3 Oh, okay. I'm sorry. Could you state your name?

4 MS. CZVEKUS: Dana Czvekus.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER BURMAN: And before you
7 speak, I'd just like to, Fred, could you turn off
8 your light because it's shining right in my eyes.
9 I'm sorry.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Please go ahead.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. CZVEKUS: Good afternoon. Good
13 afternoon. I will make this very brief. So sorry.
14 In light of the lack of info that Equinor has
15 provided to us regarding the ill effects of the wires
16 and any other dangers that might be caused, I ask
17 that you deny this process.

18 Remember after 9/11 when the E.P.A.
19 and the government told us that the air was safe to
20 breathe? That didn't work out well for us. So I ask
21 you, please, deny. The people of Long Beach do not
22 want the wind turbines in our ocean or in our
23 community. Please stop this now. How would you feel
24 if you lived here? Thank you for your time.

25 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

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2 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

3 A.L.J. MORENO: Next speaker is Alexis
4 Pace, to be followed by Randall Sorscher.

5 MS. PACE: Hello. Can you hear me
6 okay?

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Yes, thank you.

8 MS. PACE: Thank you. I want to thank
9 everyone first and the audience for sticking through
10 this because I've been here since 1 o'clock. It's a
11 long day, so I appreciate everybody waiting around.
12 My name is Alexis Pace. I am a very dedicated member
13 of this community.

14 I've called Long Beach my home for
15 over 25 years. I serve as a Long Beach School Board
16 trustee. I'm also a candidate for the Nassau County
17 legislative position. I am speaking today solely as
18 a resident and not as a political candidate, but I
19 felt I needed to disclose that just to make sure you
20 know who I am and where I'm coming from.

21 Today, you've already heard many
22 voices. This evening, you're going to hear a lot
23 more expressing some support, but it seems like
24 overwhelming opposition for this project. It's
25 obvious the people that are here that are speaking

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2 have done their homework.

3 What I want to convey to you today is
4 my profound sadness. And so to understand, I know
5 that might come as a surprise to you, so I'm going to
6 elaborate for you. I have witnessed this community
7 come together time and time and time again in the
8 face of adversity.

9 When Hurricane Sandy struck, we
10 rebuilt stronger. When the grip of COVID pandemic
11 hit us, we rose up again. When members of the
12 community are faced with whether it's illness,
13 myself, I had cancer last year, breast cancer. They
14 rallied, they lifted me up, we lift each other up.

15 Our community has demonstrated this
16 strength and unity and resilience over and over and
17 over again. I have very closely watched this
18 development of this project from its inception.
19 Before many people were aware of it, I was paying
20 attention.

21 And now I see it dividing my community
22 and it's causing contention and it's heartbreaking,
23 but it's -- it's unacceptable. Okay. At this point,
24 pointing fingers or placing blame serves little or no
25 purr -- purpose suffice it to say, frankly, this

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2 entire thing has been a disaster.

3 So in light of that, I echo the
4 sentiments that I am supportive of ways to preserve
5 the environment, but this project I simply cannot
6 support. What I need from you is compassion. All of
7 you sitting up in front of us, please understand that
8 every single member of this community speaking before
9 me and who will speak after me, they simply want what
10 is best for our community and our collective future.

11 The responsibility now falls on you to
12 ensure that the people here are heard and they feel
13 protected. And as you sit here today, I implore on
14 you to please take this community's input to heart.
15 When you leave this beautiful area and you all go
16 home, and you move on to other matters, please
17 remember that this is our home.

18 And the decisions that you make for
19 the residents, we have to live with those decisions
20 and they could have far reaching impacts. So
21 ultimately, we are not beholden to you. We're not
22 beholden to Equinor, a partner had -- that has been
23 far from ideal.

24 You are essentially beholden to us.
25 And so we, the people here have entrusted you with

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2 the power to make decisions that will impact our
3 lives and our futures. And I just urge you to
4 remember that and have compassion and empathy. And a
5 deep commitment to this community because I do.

6 And I hope that guides your decisions.
7 Our collective wellbeing is now in your hands. And I
8 would just ask that you consider the long-term
9 implications of the choices you make very carefully
10 today. Thank you.

11 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

12 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
13 speaker is Randall Sorscher, to be followed by Ben
14 Dorman.

15 MR. SORSCHER: Thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak. My name is Randall Sorscher.
17 I'm a lifelong resident of Long Island, specifically
18 on the South Shore. I do not live on the Barrier
19 Island. I live about five miles north of it.

20 I'm an avid kayaker, nature lover and
21 wildlife photographer. Most of my work is done in
22 the Great South Bay, including Reynolds Channel. And
23 I can't show you my pictures of the wildlife that I
24 photograph and the beautiful nature that I
25 photograph, but I can show you a picture of the

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2 Barrett Power Plant in operation.

3 And this is what I see as I kayak
4 north, you know, from wherever I put in. And it's --
5 it's very concerning. And the fuels that are
6 currently used to power that plant -- I'll put my
7 glasses on. Are that are used to create electricity,
8 result in illness and harm to humans, wildlife,
9 marine life right now, and it's growing worse every
10 day.

11 It's not a choice between wind and
12 nothing. It's choosing between the climate changing,
13 extractives and pollution-causing fuels we use now,
14 that are causing the harm and which we will use more
15 than ever in the future, or to move to wind and other
16 renewables, which will all decrease those harms
17 dramatically.

18 That's the choice. Offshore wind is
19 the least impactful to wildlife per energy output
20 versus the fossil fuels and pipelines that will be
21 needed to be built and used and mined and drilled
22 instead. And wind will cost much less.

23 We're replacing the dirty, expensive,
24 aquatic-life killing, climate changing Barrett power
25 plant with clean energy. For the same electricity

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2 that we use now, electricity is in our lives and is
3 not new, just the ability to get it from a much lower
4 impact resource is new.

5 Long Islanders know what climate
6 change is and see its effects and being surrounded by
7 water and in the way the storms we are facing,
8 mounting climate impacts. This is directly because
9 of burning fossil fuels. Offshore wind will displace
10 the need for them and their use.

11 All electricity is already safely
12 transmitted via cables. They are everywhere. Now
13 from the big Long Island Sound cable and the Neptune
14 cable which cross much of Long Island right now to
15 the ones from those to your house. This is nothing
16 new.

17 Even if projected wind costs doubled,
18 that would be only 11% of the current proposed
19 natural gas bill increase for delivery. And that's
20 not including the gas. Wind power is a proven
21 technology that is highly cost efficient.

22 Wind will have a fixed cost while
23 costs of fossil fuels are always increasing. Wind is
24 a local resource that does not depend on foreign
25 dictators or fossil fuel billionaires, making money

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2 and eliminates their disruption from our energy
3 equation. Inflation is causing all prices to go up,
4 none more than oil and gas, and those prices aren't
5 going down.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to
7 speak.

8 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

9 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

10 MR. SORSCHER: I don't know if this
11 can be submitted to the record, but you're welcome to
12 take it.

13 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

14 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

15 A.L.J. MORENO: Our next speaker is Ben
16 Dorman, followed by Brian Wiener. Okay. Thank you.
17 Please go right ahead.

18 MR. DORMAN: Thank you for the
19 opportunity to testify today and good -- good
20 afternoon to you all. My name is Ben Dorman. I'm
21 the deputy director for Climate Jobs New York.
22 Climate Jobs New York is a coalition of labor unions
23 that represents over two million workers in New York
24 State and here on Long Island.

25 Our organization supports the

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2 development of offshore wind and we are fighting to
3 make sure that all renewable energy resources and all
4 of the industry that goes along with it make up good
5 union jobs and support careers for New Yorkers and
6 for Long Islanders.

7 We want those jobs to be able to
8 support family supporting wages, health insurance
9 benefits. In addition to safe working conditions on
10 those jobs and in the operation and maintenance of
11 renewable energy industry for now and for the future.

12 In addition, our organization knows
13 and supports the idea that offshore wind as a
14 component of that industry is critical for the goals
15 New York State has set, and also to maintain our
16 environment here on Long Island and in New York
17 State.

18 Offshore wind produces the scale of
19 renewable energy that is necessary to combat climate
20 change and that is necessary in this moment. We
21 can't step back from this opportunity and we must
22 lean in and support the development of offshore wind
23 across the State and across the country.

24 We also know that standing up a new
25 industry such as offshore wind is a massive

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2 undertaking, and it is not always possible to foresee
3 the challenges and the obstacles that come along as
4 you are building out that industry, and as you are
5 trying to create it from scratch.

6 So we know in the last four years,
7 there's been occurrences and changes in the world
8 that none of us could foresee. We all went through a
9 pandemic, wars across the world, supply chain
10 challenges, and inflation. And none of -- like I
11 said, none of those events could have been predicted.

12 But we can't only think of the
13 additional costs that come along through those events
14 and through others. We must also think of the costs
15 that there would be for not going forward with this
16 project. So you know, again, Climate Jobs New York
17 is representing the workers who are going to do this
18 work, who are going to build the materials needed for
19 this industry.

20 And we want to be able to do that in
21 such a way that the work is there for now, for the
22 future, and that people have careers moving forward
23 based upon not only the offshore wind industry, but
24 the renewable sector.

25 And we, you know, take the opportunity

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2 again to urge support of this project. Thank you.

3 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

4 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
5 speaker is Juanita Sturton, to be followed by Daniel
6 Schaefer. Thank you. Daniel Schaefer? Brendan
7 Finn? To be followed by Steven Rolston.

8 MR. FINN: Good afternoon.

9 A.L.J. MORENO: Good afternoon.

10 MR. FINN: Brendan Finn, on 14 Grand
11 Boulevard. Oh, we don't have to do that now. I did
12 it anyway. I grew up in this town, been here over 60
13 years. I'm not as old as I look. But just about
14 everybody said what I was going to say. So I'll just
15 give you my statement on the side here.

16 I will say, from what I understand, as
17 I read this, that the energy that is going to be
18 created and shipped through Long Beach will not be
19 for Long Beach or this area. Maybe it's changed
20 since then, but it's going to go somewhere else.
21 It's going to go Upstate. It's going to go to
22 different areas along New York.

23 Whether that's true or not true, I
24 don't know, but that's what I read. It seems like
25 Long Beach is being used because we're so close to

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2 the ocean, obviously and we're going to be the first
3 ones where they run power lines through it. This is
4 the first time this is going to happen.

5 Are we going to be the -- the green
6 guinea pigs? Is -- is that it? You know, the woman
7 who spoke about what happened at 9/11. Yes, it was
8 Christine Whitman who said that the air was okay.
9 And I happened to be working down there then. Had a
10 few issues myself. I'm very lucky I don't have
11 cancer.

12 But so many people have gotten cancer.
13 Firemen, cops, first responders. Do we want to find
14 out 10 years from now that we should have done more
15 experiments, more surveys, more research? Isn't that
16 something that maybe we should be doing before we
17 become the first city or the first place that has to
18 deal with the E.M.F.s under the ground?

19 Do we want to gamble with our
20 children's health and well-being and the future of
21 our town? Do we want to find out that they were
22 wrong about the E.M.F.s? They're not giving us a
23 straight answer about, you know, the voltage. I -- I
24 think they didn't give a straight answer.

25 So I -- I just want to say that we

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2 shouldn't be the -- the green guinea pigs. And --
3 and thank you very much for having me up here.
4 Appreciate it.

5 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

6 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. I'll be
7 right with you, sir. Our next speaker will be
8 Stephen Rolston to be followed by Casey Petrashek --
9 Petrashek. Sorry about the pronunciation. Steven
10 Rolston.

11 MR. ROLSTON: Hello, I'm Steve
12 Rolston. I represent the Sierra Club. I have lived
13 in Baldwin since 1986. I love Long Beach. My wife
14 and I spend most of our leisure time here. Sure, we
15 want to use what is easy, fossil fuel.

16 Sure, we appreciate an unbroken
17 horizon. This is a crisis, however, and must be
18 treated as a crisis -- this -- this climate crisis.
19 Our parents sacrificed via rationing in the war after
20 World War II. So did our grandparents.

21 Fossil fuels are driving us to certain
22 catastrophe and loss of shoreline, loss of fish
23 catch, and spread of wildfires and more severe storms
24 and hurricanes. So we are all called to take action
25 to slow the heating of the one planet we have.

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2 So let's do it together. Wind power,
3 together with other renewables will give us and our
4 children, a chance to salvage this beautiful island
5 for future generations. Since we are all learning
6 about these issues, learning about the green new
7 deal, I simply Googled, should we transition away
8 from fossil fuels to wind and energy?

9 The first non-sponsored site Google
10 took me to is the United Nations report on climate
11 change. The first sentence reads, a large chunk of
12 the greenhouse gases that blanket the earth and trap
13 the sun's heat are generated through energy
14 production by burning fossil fuels to generate
15 electricity and heat.

16 The second page answers these
17 questions. Why renewable energy? Five quick points
18 they make. Renewable energy sources are all around
19 us. Renewable energy is cheaper. Renewable energy -
20 - renewable energy is healthier. Renewable energy
21 creates jobs. Renewable energy makes economic sense.

22 I went to the makes economic sense
23 page, and I found these words. About 5.9 trillion
24 dollars was spent on subsidizing the fossil fuel
25 industry in 2020, including through explicit

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2 subsidies, tax breaks, and health and environmental
3 damages that was not priced into the cost of fossil
4 fuels.

5 In comparison, about four trillion a
6 year needs to be invested in renewable energy until
7 2030, including investments in technology and
8 infrastructure to allow us to reach net zero
9 emissions by 2020 -- 2050. So I came here to fully
10 support the project for wind turbines here.

11 But I heard so many good arguments
12 about the location. And I heard about why they
13 didn't consider Jones Beach, but if you look at
14 places like the border between Nickerson Beach and
15 Lido Beach, where no one lives, it is an important
16 recreation area, but someone kindly suggested, you
17 know, let's all agree to spend a little more money to
18 find the least populated route for that line.

19 I do appreciate that they are taking a
20 safe path, as safe as one can do, down into the
21 ground and under the beach. So it sounds like
22 they've done pretty good work to make it right. But
23 Riverside seems like a hot, very busy place.

24 So if we could all agree to spend a
25 little more and move it to the least populated place

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2 on this beautiful island, that would be great for all
3 of us, I think. Thank you.

4 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Thank you.

6 Casey?

7 MR. PETRASHEK: Yes.

8 A.L.J. MORENO: Yes. I'm sorry about
9 the pronunciation.

10 MR. PETRASHEK: No worries.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: What's the -- what's
12 the correct way?

13 MR. PETRASHEK: Petrashek. That's the
14 life I live. Hello, my name is Casey Petrashek. I'm
15 here today representing the New York League of
16 Conservation Voters, or N.Y.L.C.V. for short. We are
17 an advocacy organization that is committed to
18 renewable energy and a clean energy future.

19 Creating offshore wind is both a
20 priority for us in achieving our clean energy goals
21 as well as protecting our hundreds of Long Beach
22 members from drastic flooding caused by sea level
23 rise and extreme weather. In addition to reaching
24 clean energy targets for New York State, offshore
25 wind will also help power over 6 million homes and

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2 reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

3 Rising sea levels affecting Long Beach
4 can only be all -- alleviated if we turn to
5 alternative clean energy sources like offshore wind.
6 Projects like Empire Wind Two are how we combat the
7 climate crisis. Because we will be able to close
8 dirty peaker plants, right over there, with -- that
9 poison our air and destroy our earth.

10 Offshore wind will not only help the
11 threat of sea level rise and flooding. But these
12 projects will also help bring 12 billion dollars in
13 new economic activity and create more than 10,000
14 clean energy jobs. Let's get some facts straight.

15 Research shows that wind farms cause
16 no significant change in property values, and most
17 beachgoers are indifferent to wind turbines built
18 over five miles from the shore. The construction of
19 these turbines will also have little to no risk to
20 marine life.

21 In fact, developers are trained to
22 monitor marine life and follow established methods
23 for reducing environmental impact. These projects
24 are not the cause of increased mortality events for
25 whales. Finally, E.M.F.s from electrical cables.

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2 E.M. -- E.M.F.s are produced whenever
3 electricity is generated, and there is no conclusive
4 evidence that linking E.M.F. exposure to harmful
5 health outcomes. And these E.M.F.s will fall well
6 within New York State guidelines.

7 Overall, the creation of wind turbines
8 will help combat sea level rise, reduce air pollution
9 and bring resources to the City of Long Beach, just
10 to name a few benefits. This project is crucial to
11 the future resilience of Long Beach, the State and
12 the world. Thank you.

13 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Just bear
15 with us one moment, please. Thank you very much for
16 your patience. As -- as you can see, we have gone
17 beyond the 04:30 mark, we are going to try to stay as
18 long as we can before we go on to the -- the
19 information forum which starts at 05:30. So we're
20 going to be able to keep the record open until 05:15.

21 Those of you who have registered to
22 speak, and do not get the opportunity between now and
23 the end of this session, we will give you preference
24 to go first at the 06:30 session, if you would come
25 back. So but thank you, we appreciate your patience.

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2 Our next speaker is Ann Gilbier, to be
3 followed by Joan Riley. Kathleen Sullivan, to be
4 followed by John Griffin.

5 MS. SULLIVAN: Thank you. Thank you,
6 Your Honors for coming. Thank you very much.

7 A.L.J. MORENO: Kathleen Sullivan,
8 correct?

9 MS. SULLIVAN: Correct.

10 A.L.J. MORENO: Yes. Okay.

11 MS. SULLIVAN: I was born and raised
12 in Point Lookout and on the Barrier Island. I've
13 been here 53 years. I'm a Cravath, Swain and Moore
14 granddaughter. Got to hang out with him quite a bit.
15 He was there over 45 years.

16 I'm also the granddaughter of a
17 construction owner, Carmody and Sons, and he built
18 many, many homes in this area. Myself, I work on
19 Wall Street as a project planner and a project -- a
20 program manager. I've worked on many E.S.G.s, and it
21 is important that you know where I'm coming from and
22 the knowledge and how much research I do.

23 Okay. Now I'm going to discuss why
24 this project, as a project planner on Wall Street is
25 not -- that should not move forward, and how Equinor

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2 is definitely not E.S.G. and would not be on any of
3 our programs.

4 Residents were not -- let's start off
5 with communication. Communication is big, right? We
6 all should know what's going on around us.
7 Communication was lacking. Residents were not
8 properly notified or communicated to of this project.
9 Most are like me. We found out about it in May of
10 2023.

11 I just saw the timeline by Equinor.
12 Most of the residents of Long Beach and the Barrier
13 Island were dealing with remnants of Sandy, or also,
14 still many of the dealings were with, while we were
15 trying to deal with our kids and dealing with COVID
16 in schools and masking. So they passed this through
17 under the cloak of no one knowing.

18 Let's talk more about communication.
19 I've gone to many of their events and I've asked
20 questions. Intelligent questions that I did my own
21 research. They couldn't answer simple questions.
22 They couldn't, and you know what? They looked with
23 disdain and disrespect on us.

24 They didn't ask who we were, or what
25 kind of S.M.E.s that we were. Like I said, they

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2 treated us like non-intelligent residents and didn't
3 give us any respect. It was totally disrespectful of
4 how they treated us. I also, at that time, around
5 May, I joined a group called Protect Our Coast.

6 I joined this group as not a paid
7 individual, but as someone that, you know, I'm very
8 well respected in this town and I know a lot of
9 people and my brother was captain of the football
10 team. I was captain of the swim team. So we know a
11 lot of people here.

12 So we banded together. So when I find
13 those 10,000 signatures, that's us going door-to-door
14 with everyone we know from this town. So I want to
15 say that those 10,000 are from here. Other than the
16 most recent comments that was on the Article 7, that
17 from people elsewhere.

18 This is the heart and soul of those --
19 those people. And if they were other people, they're
20 from Long Island. So I know, and I made sure that it
21 was all legit being a compliance officer. You can
22 respect that, right? I was like, get it signed
23 twice, get it signed for everybody else. So I want
24 to say to you, I gave all the rules of what, how we
25 could do a petition.

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2 Let's talk about infrastructure. In
3 May 2023, when I found out about this, we also had a
4 huge sinkhole that way. Okay. Right near the middle
5 school where my daughter gets picked up to go to Holy
6 Trinity. So that was a nightmare. The traffic that
7 Mr. Bendo spoke about was awful, and it was just a
8 sinkhole.

9 Can you just imagine that this was
10 caught, just so you know, this was, what was told to
11 us was that, it was because of sewer issues and also
12 issues remnants from Sandy. Can you just imagine,
13 this, just a little thing like that, our
14 infrastructure is so fragile.

15 Can you just imagine them digging us
16 underneath and what's going to happen? When asked,
17 they said, no, that -- that was a sinkhole. That's
18 what he -- that's what they said when asked. Has
19 anyone spoken to the nursing home, the Grand
20 Rehabilitation Center, which is directly behind the
21 substation over there?

22 It -- the residents there know
23 nothing. I went there. I don't know if they paid
24 someone off or what, but nobody has actually spoken
25 to all of those elderly people and those that are

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2 practically dying in -- in -- in that nursing home.
3 And it's going to be very close to that nursing home.

4 Is Governor Hochul going to be having
5 another issue like ex-Governor Cuomo in killing
6 elders? Where's the research of how close this is
7 going to be to that nursing home? Does anyone ask?
8 It is also, let's go on more to infrastructure.

9 It is unprecedented to put high
10 voltage cables very next to our Lloyd's Aquifer. No
11 one from Equinor can answer questions on how else and
12 who else has this been done to. What will happen
13 when Equinor and their cables sink into our Lloyd's
14 Aquifer, our own, it's the last aquifer on Long
15 Island, the very last one.

16 And when that is destroyed, we're
17 going to have to pay to get water from Upstate. It
18 is also very unprecedented to do something like this
19 in a very highly densely populated areas and no
20 studies have been done like this before.

21 And I want to ask this question,
22 Brendan Finn brought it up. Who gets the energy? I
23 ask you this. Who gets the energy? Do you guys
24 believe that the end justifies the means, destroying
25 one community up so that another community can get

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2 it? I would also like to address all, everyone that
3 says that this is green, and that we have to get rid
4 of fossil fuels.

5 When a simple Google, the United
6 States is at 15% footprint. Very easy. What are we
7 going to do about the rest of the world that's at 85,
8 right? So we're going to destroy ourselves and get
9 down to net zero, so that we could say we're at zero.
10 What are you going to do about China that's at 40,
11 30, 45? Let's destroy ourselves.

12 These turbines are also not green.
13 And I -- I'm listening to these people. You know,
14 oops, Equinor, oops, I thought they were Statoil.
15 That's their old name, right? They're now Equinor, a
16 foreign company coming in. They also partnered with
17 B.P. Oil.

18 And B.P., if you read all the Newsday
19 articles and also the Post articles, B.P. Oil is not
20 being very happy with them from -- from their
21 perspective and the money that they're giving. So
22 they're not being very forthcoming about their
23 profile.

24 They came up and they said that
25 they're a great company and look at all they did.

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2 They didn't say anything about what happened in -- in
3 -- in the Ohio River and all of the things that
4 happened to them and how they're getting thoughtfully
5 refined from there.

6 So I also want to state that if we do
7 -- if you vote on this and say yes, we will be
8 beholden to a foreign company and we will have to,
9 and most of these people won't get the jobs. What's
10 been read is that it's going to be beholden of a
11 foreign company and these labor unions mostly, as I
12 do work for a foreign company and I know most of it
13 goes to Switzerland from my company. So it -- it's
14 pretty fun.

15 I also like to mention that growing up
16 here, I learned to fish and I learned to clam. When
17 asked Equinor, what are you going to do to protect
18 Reynolds Channel from clamming. Right now, we have a
19 lot of in -- initiatives of trying to clean up
20 Reynolds Channel.

21 What this is going to do is going to
22 destroy most of our clam life, right? Right now, our
23 shellfish is coming up smaller. I used to, right
24 off, I highly suggest you take a look because we get
25 the best clams here in Point Lookout.

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2 Whales, oh my God. I -- I grew up
3 here 53 years. And I was walking the -- the beach
4 the other day with my 16-year-old near Florida
5 Street. One was washed up right there, literally
6 only about a half an hour.

7 I swear to God, her and I started
8 investigating. There was no ship strike on that.
9 Once -- once again, I'm going to ask you. How many
10 more have to wash up in the area? I think we're up
11 to 72 on the East coast. So someone says, enough is
12 enough and we need more research.

13 Have you ever -- have you watched --

14 A.L.J. MORENO: Okay. Can we please -

15 -

16 MS. SULLIVAN: Have you also watched
17 through the --.

18 A.L.J. MORENO: -- not interrupt, but
19 we do have a lot of people.

20 MS. SULLIVAN: Have you also watched
21 Through the Wind? One last statement. That's a
22 great movie about Through the Wind. One last
23 statement. I'm all over Article 7's reading because
24 I want to get -- I want to get knowledge and then I
25 do my own research once I read -- read the article.

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2 There's been so many changes, multiple
3 changes. And as a compliance officer and a project
4 manager, it is unprecedented to move -- move forward
5 on a project with so many changes and at the last
6 minute, having to read pages and pages of documents.
7 My head is exploded.

8 Thank God one person from our group,
9 you know, she reads through them. She's a paralegal.
10 I read through them. But all of these quick changes,
11 the residents can't know what's going on. So it's
12 unprecedented.

13 I drastically ask you that because of
14 all the changes and -- and the reenactments that
15 personally this project should stop and they should
16 put out a new Article 7 and start to do it right.
17 Communication. Thoroughly investigating our
18 infrastructure.

19 So I kindly ask you to say no to this
20 project and not move forward. One last thing. We
21 have -- wait. I'd like to give you -- I'd like to --
22 .

23 A.L.J. MORENO: We can accept your
24 written statements.

25 MS. SULLIVAN: I'd like to invite you

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2 all to our presentations that we have. It's kind of
3 like -- so I'd like you to hear the residents
4 actually speak. Thank you.

5 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
6 speaker is John Griffin. John Griffin, Robert
7 Humphreys. Is this Mr. Griffin?

8 MR. GRIFFIN: Yeah.

9 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you.

10 MR. GRIFFIN: Good afternoon.

11 A.L.J. MORENO: Good afternoon.

12 MR. GRIFFIN: Good afternoon. I'll
13 make this short and sweet. I just want to say that
14 these turbines are a boondoggle. They -- they're --
15 they're a navigational hazard. They're destructive
16 to marine life. You don't get electric on demand.
17 And the taxpayer ends up paying for everything.

18 And that's what all I have to say.
19 Thank you.

20 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

21 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you very much.
22 Robert Humphreys. Fran Adelson, to be followed by
23 Judy Massey.

24 MS. ADELSON: Thank you so much for
25 having us all here today to speak on lines. My name

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2 is Fran Adelson. I happen to be a former City
3 Councilwoman from the City of Long Beach. And I was
4 on the City Council when Superstorm Sandy hit Long
5 Beach, which brought Long Beach to its knees.

6 I know that people have been saying
7 that we should go look at the beach, the people from
8 Equinor should go look at the beach, everybody should
9 go look at the beach. But if you had been here
10 during that time, you would have seen the city
11 brought to its knees.

12 I strongly urge you to oppose giving
13 the -- I want you to deny the project. If something
14 happens -- so many people have spoken about so many
15 different aspects, so I'm not going to go through
16 them because you've heard them all.

17 The problem is, is that we're supposed
18 to get funds, right? Host funds, for allowing this
19 project to be here. Part of, you know, that's part
20 of it. Those host funds, when Sandy happened, it
21 cost hundreds of millions of dollars to put this city
22 back together.

23 The boardwalk was 44 million dollars.
24 The Army Corps of Engineers came and did a couple of
25 100 million dollar jobs to rebuild the beach and the

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2 jetties. So people are -- most people are back in
3 their homes. Some people are not. Some people ended
4 up going bankrupt

5 It almost destroyed the city. But the
6 city and the people have tenacity and they really
7 care about each other, and that combined with funds
8 got us back to where we are now. So my concern is
9 that if something does happen, and any one of a
10 number of things can happen, what happens, who is
11 Equinor -- is Empire Wind, they didn't put out
12 hundreds of millions of dollars to make us whole
13 again. Those are my main concerns, and I'm hoping
14 that you deny the project. Thank you.

15 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

16 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. Our next
17 speaker is Judy Massey, to be followed by Robert
18 Tice, Nancy Fleming. Eric Riley. Tina Posterlie.
19 Anita -- Anita Bacharach. Adrienne Esposito.

20 MS. ESPOSITO: I think it's evening.
21 Good evening. No, good afternoon. My name is
22 Adrienne Esposito. I'm the executive director of
23 Citizens Campaign for the Environment. We strongly
24 support offshore wind, but I'm going to stick to the
25 issue of the cable connection, because that's the

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2 Article 7 proceedings before us. Move the cable.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you.

4 MS. ESPOSITO: You're welcome. Thank
5 you. We have been, you know, looking at this and
6 researching this project for years. It seems as
7 though, obviously, the vast majority, not all, but
8 the vast majority of residents in Long Beach have
9 concerns about the cable, whether it be disruption of
10 living, and construction, or E.M.F.s or whatever it
11 happens to be.

12 So move the cable. There are
13 alternatives. One resident got up and testified, why
14 are you prioritizing wetlands over people? Well,
15 we're a pretty staunch environmental group and we're
16 not doing that. Put it through the wetlands. You
17 might -- of course, I'm not going to have a pause at
18 Long Beach, but you might be wondering why
19 environmentalists would say such a thing.

20 Well, number one is the wetlands here
21 are very degraded. We have the Bay Park Sewage
22 Treatment Plant outfall pipe, the Long Beach Sewage
23 Treatment Plant outfall pipe, and those two combined
24 put in about 60 million gallons per day of treated
25 effluent, which has caused the wetlands here to be

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2 very degraded.

3 The roots are very shallow, and those
4 wetlands fracture whenever a storm hits, they are not
5 high functioning wetlands. They are not protecting
6 the mainland from storm surges or sea level rise. So
7 if we could reroute the cable through wetlands and
8 then require wetlands restoration to take place, then
9 we actually could end up with higher functioning
10 wetlands tomorrow than we have today.

11 And also, we could alleviate all of
12 the concerns and the problems associated with going
13 through the City of Long Beach. So we're strong
14 supporters of saving the project, moving the cable,
15 doing it differently. The Beacon Offshore Wind Farm,
16 which is going to be about 50 miles off of the coast
17 of Montauk, has a 125-mile cable proposed, which is
18 going to go around Long Island through the middle of
19 Long Island Sound, and connect to Astoria, Queens.

20 If we could do that, surely, we could
21 move the cable around Long Beach City onto the
22 mainland. Number two. People keep saying we can't
23 do this. This is too expensive. I don't think
24 people realize what's expensive is staying addicted
25 to fossil fuels. The cost of electricity in New York

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2 State, on average, according to New York State
3 records, in 1990 was 11 cents per kilowatt.

4 A decade later, it was 14 cents per
5 kilowatt. In 2020, it was 21 cents per kilowatt.
6 And then in the last two years, it catapulted up to
7 26 cents. That's a lot of numbers. What does it
8 mean? I'll tell you. It means that electricity
9 rates in the State of New York, because we're
10 addicted to fossil fuels, have gone up 125%.

11 So when we consider the cost of doing
12 wind, I request that you juxtapose that with the cost
13 of staying addicted to oil and natural gas. What has
14 caused oil to go up over the last few years? A
15 little thing called OPEC. You probably read about
16 the deal cut between Russia and Saudi Arabia to
17 constrict the amount of oil being generated
18 specifically to generate the price per barrel up.

19 Yesterday oil closed at 85 dollars per
20 barrel. Last week it was 92. That has caused our
21 electricity, our heating rates, trucking, food,
22 inflation to go on the rise. So switching to
23 offshore wind helps alleviate that financial burden,
24 not only in the electricity rate, but all across
25 different sectors of society.

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2 The other thing real quick is some
3 people are saying, well, you know, let's not do wind
4 and -- and we don't want to destroy the oceans.
5 Well, you know what's hurting us? The Barrett Power
6 Plant and our fossil fuel plants that have open loop
7 cooling systems.

8 In fact, according to National Grid's
9 own records, the Barrett power plant kills almost one
10 billion, that's billion with a B, finfish, shellfish
11 and larval each and every year out of the western
12 bays ecosystem. Every year.

13 And Northport power plant is almost
14 two billion. And the Port Jeff power plant, also
15 open loop cooling systems. So we are hurting our
16 waterways, our finfish, and our recreational, our
17 shellfish industry because of power plants and power
18 plant production.

19 And I have to say one last thing. I'm
20 really, really dismayed to hear people who are not
21 scientists, who think they know about how whales are
22 dying. But whale deaths were declared back in 2016
23 by NOAA. We have an unusual whale death mortality
24 situation occurring.

25 That was way before any wind farm

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2 exploration or surveying started in America. And
3 it's gotten bad. But we all have spoken to every
4 marine mammal scientist on this island, because we
5 want to know too. This is critically important to us
6 as Long Islanders, but hopefully as Americans.

7 Every marine experts, whether it was
8 Kresley, whether it was A.M.C.s, whether it was
9 Gotham Whales, NOAA, BOL, all of them tell us it's
10 because we have way more whales here, we have an
11 increase of 30% shipping according to the -- the port
12 authority, and we have more menhaden, which is a food
13 source for the whales.

14 So let's deal with facts. Let's deal
15 with science. Let's find the real culprit for whale
16 deaths and stop blaming, you know, offshore wind. So
17 I want to say we support offshore wind, but we
18 support it with moving that cable route and
19 supporting at least, you know, the concerns of the
20 community. Thank you very much.

21 And thank you for your stamina today.

22 A.L.J. KERSEY: Thank you.

23 A.L.J. MORENO: Thank you. All right.

24 Folks, I know that we have not gotten to everyone,
25 but it is now 05:15 and we have to take a short break

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2 before we begin our session at 05:30. So thank you
3 all very much for your comments and your patience
4 this evening.

5 Again, to the extent that we did not
6 get to you, you will be given preference at the 06:30
7 session. Thank you.

8 (The hearing concluded at 5:16 p.m.)
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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, HANNAH BELAIR, do hereby certify that the foregoing was
4 reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place, as
5 stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that the
6 foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of pages 1
7 through 154, is a true record of all proceedings had at
8 the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto
10 subscribed my name, this the 18th day of October, 2023.

11

12 HANNAH BELAIR, Reporter

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