

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to thank the Public Service Commission for the opportunity to submit a statement regarding the Heritage Wind project. My name is Austin Kuntz, union representative for Laborers' Local 435 based in Rochester, and I would like to voice my support for the Heritage Wind project. This project will bring hundreds of prevailing-wage jobs to local men and women who can expect to work on this project. Prevailing wage projects not only provides local workers with a livable hourly wage, but it will also provide them and their families with healthcare benefits and a suitable retirement. Local job creation will provide a boost in local economic growth, as will 25 years of annual tax revenue committed by Heritage Wind. This will allow local communities to fund schools, public services, and infrastructure without the need to raise local taxes. Lastly, wind energy is a way of the future and allows municipalities to be self-sufficient with locally sourced clean energy, while allowing New York to be distant from imported fossil-fuel power. This project alone will produce 200 Mega-Watts of clean energy for 53,000 homes annually. All residents within Orleans County will benefit both economically and environmentally from the approval of the Heritage Wind project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Austin Kuntz

Organizer

New York State Laborers' Organizing Fund

