May 20, 2020

Mr. Sam Randazzo, Chairman
Ohio Power Siting Board
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: 16-1871-EL-BGN Icebreaker Windpower

Dear Chairman Randazzo,

I am writing to reiterate Green Energy Ohio’s support for the Icebreaker Windpower project. Green Energy Ohio (GEO) has communicated previously on this subject in various forums, as have many of our members, supporters, and partner organizations.

In 2005, GEO led a coalition that included the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, NOAA, and numerous technical support organizations to install a meteorological tower on the Cleveland Crib, the main intake for Cleveland’s municipal water intake supply located 3 miles off the Lake Erie shore. The data collected from the study demonstrated that the location was a strong Class 4 wind site and served as a basis for continued offshore wind research and development.

The Icebreaker Windpower project is the first of its kind: The first offshore wind facility in the Great Lakes and the first freshwater wind farm in North America. Studies conducted by government agencies and research institutions and exhaustive regulatory reviews have shown that the projected economic advantages and minimal environmental impact surpass expectations. In addition to improving Ohio’s air and water quality, Icebreaker Windpower would address our growing vulnerability to climate change and advance Ohio’s position in the clean energy economy. This includes an estimated 500 new jobs and over $250 million in economic impact over the life of the program. LEEDCo has also made it an objective to seek out companies within Ohio’s existing manufacturing base to become a part of the new offshore wind energy supply chain. As the state transitions to a post-pandemic economy, renewable energy will be at the forefront of our recovery. With Icebreaker Windpower, Ohio would be a national competitor in the rapidly growing, multi-billion-dollar offshore wind industry.

For these reasons, Icebreaker Windpower is publicly supported by a diverse range of groups, including elected officials and local governments, foundations, labor and trade unions, universities and business networks, and nonprofit organizations. Green Energy Ohio is proud to be among the advocates for Icebreaker Windpower.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Best regards,

Jane Harf
Executive Director