

Greetings ecoRI,

I am writing to your organization regarding your position, articles, and Instagram posts on OSW.

I'm not sure exactly where to begin with the topic of OSW, but I must say I am very confused by your stance in promoting it and also in the process, speaking badly about those of us who oppose it.

Let me first tell you that I was born and raised in Narragansett. My entire life, I've spent close to nature and lived in adoration of nature. My husband and I operate an organic farm and have been composting for years. We spend our days off hiking and rowing.

Everyone that I know who is in opposition to OSW is in favor of nature.

Personally, my biggest concern is that there is no data proving they will have a measurable impact on climate change. It seems like a huge risk to take — sacrificing our ocean for an ineffective band aid. When their life expectancy is reached in fifteen years, who will be held responsible for cleaning up the mess. Most likely, it falls upon the taxpayers which is another issue aside from environmental impact.

My husband and I along with thousands of Rhode Islanders and individuals across the world are highly skeptical of their positive impact. We are supporters of Green Oceans and are grateful that an organization has been established with a platform for all of us to share our voice. Many people that I know have been afraid to speak up against OSW. People fear being silenced for spreading "misinformation".

RI residents are no longer falling for the false promises of saving the climate in return for destroying our ocean.

**Fishermen, both commercial and recreational, have been in opposition to them for decades. This is nothing new and nothing invented by Green Oceans.** Sadly, fishermen have been ignored for their opinions on the matter and they are the ones who are closest to the marine environment. Maybe we should have listened to them? Were they just not educated enough to be heard? So now, we have a highly educated group of people such as the Green Ocean's folks who are speaking out and they are being insulted simply for asking valid

questions. They are being called the "coastal elite". It's funny, in our perspective, Green Ocean's isn't leading the charge, they are actually late to the party!

A phenomenal nature writer, Robert Macfarlane is Professor of Literature and the Environmental Humanities at the Faculty of English in Cambridge. He has been fighting wind farms in the UK for over 20 years because they pollute the environment and impact the culture of a place.

Europe has been opposing these for decades as well. Speaking of which, countries like Sweden are ditching OSW and investing further in nuclear energy. This is because they are not the solution to our climate crisis.

Your statements on your website and on Instagram reflect that you are out of touch with how RI residents feel about this. Many oppose it or simply are not aware of what exactly is going on out there.

For the residents that are in favor of it, many are misled. RI residents think that just a few wind turbines are being installed and that we will get all of our energy from these turbines. They have no idea what is really planned. RI residents who are for OSW simply don't realize their adverse impact and lack of benefit to our climate. I have one friend who was in favor of OSW and this is because she thought five turbines would go up and that they would supply RI with energy! This is false and we have been fooled to think that this will help global warming.

Caring about our natural world, and specifically the ocean, should not be controversial. It is not political, it is about protecting our ocean which sustains us physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

It is okay for RI residents to ask questions and demand satisfactory answers when it comes to offshore wind — the thousand turbines that are going up off of our coast.

It is okay to question what is being pushed through under the catch words - climate change, green, clean, and renewable energy. Every action given this label needs to have the specific data behind it to prove it to be so.

It is okay to ask the questions that thousands of us have but have not been answered regarding the specific environmental impact occurring at the hands of the foreign companies who are building these.

My short list of unanswered questions around OSW are:

- Where is the data to support that the turbines will improve global warming?
- How are we going to clean them up at the end of their short 15 year lifespan?
- Are these turbines really going to turn climate change around?
- How much energy do the five BI wind turbines produce? That data has not been made available to the public.
- How specifically is OSW "green" and "clean" energy? From destroying forests in South America in order to build them to shipping them here and installing them actually involves a very high carbon emission cost.
- Can we explore other options that are low or even zero carbon emissions?
- What is the effect of EMFs from the cables that will be running through the ocean and through our communities? What sorts of problems can this cause on the health of marine species and on human life?
- What about the impact of acoustic vibration on marine life and on human life? They are not too far offshore from us.
- Does ecoRI believe that these turbines will save the climate in fifteen years? Information that has been made public by BOEM (Bureau of Energy Management) or by the windmill companies themselves.
- There is no measurable impact of OSW on global warming.
- Only 1/18 of the energy from these projects off of our coast is going to RI - the rest goes to NY, CT, and MA.
- Every wind company installing the turbines is actually a fossil fuel company such as: Shell and BP (remember them?) Big Oil is Big Wind and they've funded Southern New England institutions with millions of dollars.
- Block Island does not receive its energy from the 5 directly off its coast.
- The EPA has had to give special permission around carbon emissions for the project because they will pollute way over permitted standards.
- Each turbine will cost \$150M to install.
- Their life span is around fifteen years and the cost to decommission will most likely be as costly as the installation.
- Our electricity costs will go up - OSW companies admit that we should expect a major adverse impact on economics.
- BOEM advises that turbines alter temperature stratification of the ocean and impact ocean currents.
- OSW is not clean, not green. Each blade is impregnated with BPA, during a storm, such microplastics will be released into the ocean in turbulent winds.
- Each substation brings in 8-10 million gallons of ocean water daily, adds chlorine to it, heats it to 90 degrees, and discharges back into the ocean in order to cool cables. This process kills everything that gets sucked up into it

including plankton, larvae, fish eggs. All this for a very small amount of electricity.

- OSW is the most expensive form of electricity.
- And yes, they are killing whales. This can no longer be denied. I can share endless data with you if you'd like. [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/robert-bryce-3b5a5b4\\_rightwhale-us-newyork-activity-7189361589190299648-lbtk](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/robert-bryce-3b5a5b4_rightwhale-us-newyork-activity-7189361589190299648-lbtk)

What are the benefits of OSW that outweigh these adverse effects? Where is the data showing that wind turbines will improve climate change?

Our ocean is our most precious resource and I hope we never take it for granted.

I cannot imagine such an invasive industrialization of our oceans would not adversely impact the ecosystem in some way. Sacrificing our oceans is too high a risk without actual proof of environmental improvement.

Developers themselves admit that these massive complexes will *not* help combat climate change. The Vineyard Wind environmental impact statement states, “Overall, it is anticipated that there would be *no collective impact on global warming as a result of offshore wind projects*, including the Proposed Action...” [4] The Revolution Wind draft environmental impact statement also acknowledges that the full build-out of all projects, in total, will have “*no measurable influence on climate change*”. [5] None of the websites for the projects claim they will help combat climate change or decrease carbon emissions. The purpose and need statements of the environmental impact statements merely assert the projects will allow states to meet their renewable energy mandates.

I hope as human beings, we can come up with better solutions.