RESOLUTION 2026-24

A RESOLUTION RE-AFFIRMING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF OCEAN CITY'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE WIND AND THE MARYLAND OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Ocean City, a Maryland municipal corporation (hereinafter "Mayor and City Council"), has been entrusted with the preservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the beach and waters in and adjacent to Ocean City, Maryland for the benefit of the citizens of Ocean City and visitors therein; and

WHEREAS, for nearly a decade, the Mayor and City Council have consistently opposed offshore wind development off Ocean City's coast because of concerns about its effects on our community, our economy, and the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, although the membership of this elected body changes over time, its continuing commitment to advancing organized and clear opposition to offshore wind development adjacent to Ocean City remains steadfast; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council remained hopeful that its voice would be heard, but on September 4, 2024, the United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved the Construction and Operations Plan for the Maryland Offshore Wind Project - an 80,000 acre Wind Project constructed by US Wind Inc., just 10.7 miles off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland and Fenwick Island, Delaware; and this final agency approval provided US Wind with authorization to commence construction of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2024, the Mayor and City Council, together with Worcester County, Fenwick Island, Delaware, and thirty other plaintiffs, filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, challenging the federal approval of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project under a number of federal statutes; and

WHEREAS, the approval of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project ignored Federal law and procedure, as well as the cumulative environmental impacts of thousands of turbines on millions of acres of ocean; including the failure of the Project to properly consider the significant adverse impacts the Project would have on tourism and local economies, the climate change effects of construction and operation, and various other environmental Impacts and the horseshoe crab and North Atlantic right whale; and

WHEREAS, Ocean City is surrounded by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Ocean City Inlet, and coastal bays, and 10 miles of beautiful beaches. Ocean City's local economy and culture are centered around the waters of the Atlantic Ocean and are heavily dependent on tourism, recreation, and the health and preservation of the ocean and its coastline. An ocean resort town since the early 1900s, Ocean City welcomes and hosts around 8 million visitors each summer in its more than 10,000 hotel rooms and 21,000 condominiums and homes. Every year, these millions of visitors come to Ocean City and spend billions of dollars

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to sunbathe on the town's beaches, observe whales and dolphins, fish, birdwatch, and enjoy the historic boardwalk, recreation, shops, and amusement parks; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Offshore Wind Project threatens the coastal character, natural resources, and economic well-being that generations of residents, businesses, and visitors have helped build and sustain; and

WHEREAS, with an economy based almost entirely on tourism, commercial fishing, and recreational fishing, Ocean City cannot sustain a drastic change in its workforce and culture—changes that will occur because of the approved Maryland Offshore Wind Project or any offshore wind project; and

WHEREAS, Ocean City will suffer direct, substantial, and cognizable injuries-in-fact as a direct result of the construction and operations of the Maryland Offshore Wind Project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of Ocean City reaffirms its opposition to the Maryland Offshore Wind Project and to the construction of permanent offshore wind turbines off Ocean City's coast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council remain committed to pursuing the Town's legal challenge to the Project and advocating for the protection of Ocean City's residents, businesses, visitors, and coastal resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Maryland and our Congressional Representatives.

RESOLVED AND EFFECTIVE this 16th day of November 2026.

ATTEST:

DIANA L. CHAVIS, Clerk

MATTHEW M. JAMES, Mayor

Approved as to form:

CAROL PROCTOR, President

HEATHER STANSBURY
Ayres, Jenkins, Gordy & Almand, P.A.
Office of City Solicitor

JACOB H. MITRECIC, Secretary