



# The Offshore Energy Modernization Act

H.R. 9641, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Sponsor: Rep. Paul Tonko (NY-20)

*"Offshore wind holds tremendous promise for our nation's clean energy economy of the future."*

❖ Paul Tonko

## Offshore wind is an economic opportunity

- In 2021, President Biden announced the nation's goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2030, a target that will:
  - Support **77,000 quality, clean energy jobs**
  - Generate sustainable and reliable electricity to **power more than 10 million homes**
  - Cut 78 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions
- In February 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's auction for six lease areas in the New York Bight set records, raising **\$4.37 billion** in new Federal revenue in winning bids and illustrating the promise this industry already shows.
- All parts of the U.S. will benefit from this emerging industry – from component manufacturers in Upstate New York, to steel plants in West Virginia, to shipbuilders in Texas.

## Current bottlenecks threaten success

- There are currently more than **40 gigawatts of offshore wind projects in the pipeline**, but the U.S. lacks the essential infrastructure to enable these projects to succeed.
- Each project also requires coordinating with multiple agencies and jurisdictions, engaging diverse communities and stakeholders, and navigating complex project timelines.
- **Predictability and transparency** around leasing opportunities and permitting processes are needed to build projects on time and reach our clean energy targets.

## Congress can provide certainty for stakeholders!

**The Offshore Energy Modernization Act of 2022** is the first comprehensive federal legislation to support long-term and responsible offshore wind development in the United States. This bill:

- ❖ Makes targeted reforms to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to better reflect the realities of offshore wind development and provide long-term certainty for this emerging industry.
- ❖ Provides funding for agencies to facilitate **timely and efficient permitting** of offshore renewable energy projects, including through **early and robust community engagement**.
- ❖ Ensures that offshore renewable energy projects support good-paying, union jobs and a reliable, domestic supply chain.
- ❖ Invests in **marine and coastal habitat protection and compensates fishing interests** that have been impacted by offshore wind development.
- ❖ Establishes the Offshore Power Administration to provide Federal assistance to advance shared offshore transmission infrastructure.
- ❖ Creates new Department of Energy grant and loan guarantee opportunities to support U.S. shipbuilding needed to construct offshore wind projects.