



---

794 Purchase Street • P.O. Box 8827 • New Bedford, MA 02742  
(508) 999-5231 Tel • (508) 999-5237 Fax • [www.newbedfordchamber.com](http://www.newbedfordchamber.com)

---

## POSITION STATEMENT

MA State Legislative Bill H-2881 (An Act to promote energy diversity and to encourage the development of clean energy security, energy diversity and economic growth.)

*The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business advocacy and economic development organization. It has a diverse membership base of 1,000 businesses – primarily small and medium size - in the SouthCoast region of Massachusetts. This policy position is intended to serve as guidelines for the Chamber's Government Affairs efforts and has been reviewed and approved by the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and Board of Directors.*

Adopted: 11/5/2015

**Position:** The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors fully endorses and supports MA State Legislative Bill H-2881 for the following reasons:

- Bill H-2881 allows for the off-shore wind contractors to be assured that 2000 KW of electricity be purchased through auction on an annual basis.
- Offshore wind can scale to thousands of megawatts of zero pollution power, dramatically reducing greenhouse gases and particulates emissions.
- The Bill H-2881 proposal would call for the under-utilized South Terminal in New Bedford to be put into use and would create an estimated immediate 250 jobs, and would subsequently add an additional 10,000 more as the statewide initiative grows.
- Massachusetts is already a national leader in higher education, advanced manufacturing, biotech, and fishing. The Commonwealth can now also lead the nation in the development of a new national industry: offshore wind.

**Rationale:** Although there is no guarantee regarding energy costs in this bill, the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce does support such diversification of all energy resources. Offshore wind produces energy when we need it most: during hot summer days, and during cold winters. The imminent closure of coal-fired plants leave the Commonwealth and the region at the mercy of capacity issues, and offshore wind energy will meet environmental goals for renewable and reduce the Commonwealth's reliance on natural gas and exposure to fossil fuel price spikes. Offshore wind prices can be fixed over the long-term, thereby hedging against large fluctuations in cost to ratepayers caused by shortages during peak demand and future escalations in gas prices.

Today, offshore wind is a global powerhouse with over 70 offshore wind farms in operation. Financing markets have matured, development timelines have gone from over a decade to (on average) four years from contract to commissioning, and costs are falling as a result of larger, more efficient technology. At scale, there is no better source of renewable power to help create jobs, diversify energy costs, and protect our environment than offshore wind.

*While this statement is policy as of the effective date of this document, the Chamber reserves the right to adopt changes and make modifications and additions to its policies, and will continue to monitor issues as they develop.*

Please contact Kim Perry, Chair of the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee at (508) 999-5231 with any questions regarding this policy position.

*The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit business association based in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Chartered in 1885, the Chamber serves nearly 1,000 member businesses of all sizes from virtually all industries in the ten communities of New Bedford, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport. The Chamber supports and promotes the local business community through leadership in public advocacy, education, networking, information, and community development.*

# # # # #