

IIPD Comments on IPA Policy Study

Attention: Illinois Power Agency

RE: Public Comments regarding IPA Policy Study focused on energy storage, offshore wind, and high voltage direct current transmission

As Executive Director of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD), I would like to take a moment to share how the establishment of offshore wind may positively impact the IIPD.

Assembling offshore wind components near the water's edge is a strategic advantage for any port, and the IIPD is uniquely positioned to accommodate such operations. By leveraging our waterfront location, we can attract offshore wind developers and position ourselves as the preferred destination for component assembly and maintenance, thus maintaining our competitive edge in the region.

Supporting offshore wind development aligns with the IIPD's goals of infrastructure enhancement and economic growth. Development of offshore wind can lead to greater opportunities for the IIPD to secure various grants and other capital funds desperately needed to build a port optimized for handling wind farm components and other cargo, we can bolster our capacity and capabilities, attracting investment and generating long-term benefits for our community and region.

Investing in offshore wind not only diversifies our energy sources but also presents opportunities for the IIPD to contribute to sustainability efforts. By harnessing clean energy from the wind farm, we can potentially power our operations and infrastructure, while also implementing eco-friendly initiatives such as installing charging stations for electric trucks and equipment. This not only reduces our carbon footprint but also positions us as a leader in environmental stewardship.

Bringing offshore wind cargo to the Port of Chicago instead of competitors' ports presents a significant revenue opportunity for the IIPD. By facilitating the transportation and logistics of wind farm components, we can capture valuable business and strengthen our position as a key player in the regional maritime industry.

Offshore wind development has the potential to create a multitude of jobs across various sectors, from shipping and logistics to assembly and maintenance. The IIPD stands to benefit from job creation opportunities, including roles in material handling, storage, construction, and ongoing maintenance of the wind farm. Additionally, offering long-term leases for waterfront facilities can attract investment and support the growth of local businesses, further contributing to job creation and economic prosperity in our community.

In summary, the establishment of an offshore wind farm aligns with the strategic objectives of the Illinois International Port District, offering opportunities for infrastructure development, revenue generation, job creation, and environmental sustainability.

Thank you.



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