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IN THE MATTER OF TIDAL
WETLAND LICENSE

23-WL-0813/WQC
24-WQC-0004

March 25, 2024

WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
32000 Campus Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804

Reported by Jeffrey Elam, Court Reporter
Transcription Service by: CRC Salomon

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">P R O C E E D I N G S -----</p> <p>MR. BING: Okay. We're going to get started. Good evening. It is 6:00 p.m. on March 25th, 2024. I'm Andrew Bing, and I'll be the facilitator for tonight's public hearing. To start, I would like to introduce Jonathan Stewart with the Maryland Department of the Environment.</p> <p>MR. STEWART: Good evening. My name is Jonathan Stewart, and I am the Eastern Region Chief of the Tidal Wetlands Division within the Water and Science Administration. There we go. The feedback is coming. How about now? I think I can hold it here to continue, so I'll just start over.</p> <p>Good evening. My name is Jonathan Stewart, and I'm the Eastern Region Chief of the Tidal Wetlands Division within the Water and Science Administration at the Maryland Department of the Environment. I will be the hearing officer for tonight's public informational hearing.</p> <p>Also in attendance from the department is Heather Nelson, Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program Manager,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>applicant to present the proposed project on tidal wetlands impacts that may be associated with the proposed activity, as well as any impact to water quality.</p> <p>In addition, the hearing provides the department with an opportunity to solicit additional information from interested persons. This hearing is not a contested case hearing under Maryland's Administrative Procedure Act. While I want to stress fact that we are here, we are all here to share information, we will have some structure to the hearing in terms of the order and length of the comments.</p> <p>Please be advised that it's not necessary to read a statement to make it part of the official record. Written comments will also be accepted and receive the same weighted consideration as any oral statement. In fact, for accuracy, if you have written comments to read into the record, please provide a copy of those comments before leaving to Miles Simmons. This hearing is being recorded.</p> <p>Authority. The statutory authority for issuance of a tidal wetlands license is Title 16 of the environmental article Annotated Code of Maryland as</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>and Miles Simmons, to my right, Tidal Wetlands Division Project Manager. I would like to welcome everyone here this evening and thank Wor-Wic Community College for the use of their facility tonight.</p> <p>Attendance sheets. If there's anyone who has not signed attendance sheets, please do so before you leave tonight. These sheets will be used to notify you of the department's final decision and provide you with a copy of the hearing report and are being used to identify those of you who wish to make a statement in tonight's hearing. Those statements will be heard at the conclusion of the applicant's presentation.</p> <p>The attendance sheets will also be provided to the Board of Public Works for use in its review process. As a courtesy, please turn off all communication devices or place them in the silent mode.</p> <p>Hearing procedure. We are conducting a public informational hearing pursuant to subsection 5-204 of the Environmental Article and Code of Maryland regulations COMAR 26.24.01.05, and COMAR 26.08.02.10F, Section 2. The purpose of this public informational hearing is for the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>implemented under COMAR 23.02.04 and subtitle 26.24. A state tidal wetlands license is issued by the Board of Public Works consisting of the governor, state treasurer, comptroller of the state of Maryland based upon a report and recommendation submitted to the board by the department.</p> <p>In accordance with Maryland constitution, the board is the sole body with authority over state property, including state tidal wetlands. In its proprietary authority, the board has the right to grant a third party a license to construct or conduct an activity in state tidal wetlands. According to §16-202 of the environment article, the secretary of the department shall assist the board in determining whether to issue a license to dredge or fill state wetlands.</p> <p>The secretary shall submit a report indicating whether the license should be granted, including any recommended terms, conditions and considerations after consultation with applicable federal, state and local entities.</p> <p>Issuance of sufficient public notice and</p>

<p>1 conducted any requested hearing. Consideration of any 2 public comments received and consideration of any other 3 information the secretary thinks advisable. In making a 4 decision, the board is guided by the public policy of the 5 state in considering applicable, ecological, economic, 6 developmental, recreation and aesthetic values to preserve 7 tidal wetlands and prevent their destruction.</p> <p>8 I am now going to read briefly from the 9 regulations so that it is clear how we are going to 10 proceed. Under COMAR 26.24.01.05E through G, an applicant 11 and any interested person shall be given an opportunity at 12 the informational hearing to present the facts and make 13 statements supporting or opposing the license. The hearing 14 is not a contested case hearing under Maryland's 15 Administrative Procedure Act.</p> <p>16 In order, the order of the presentation is 17 determined by the hearing officer and will be conducted as 18 follows. Introduction of the activity in participants by 19 the hearing officer, presentation of the proposed project 20 by the applicant, statements by public officials, 21 statements by the public, closing the informational hearing</p>	<p>Page 6</p>	<p>1 received through our regulatory program has specific and 2 unique issues and impacts that must be considered regarding 3 Maryland's water quality standards. The department is 4 neither a proponent nor an opponent of the project.</p> <p>5 In summary, the Maryland Department of 6 Environment is conducting a public information hearing for 7 state tidal wetlands application number 23-WL-0813 8 submitted on September 8, 2023, and Clean Water Act §401, 9 Water Quality Certification Request 24-WQC-0004, received 10 on January 16, 2024.</p> <p>11 The application request authorization to remove 12 an existing pier and associated structures and construct a 13 625-foot-long by 32-foot-wide concrete pier with associated 14 wave break and timber fenders, all extending a maximum of 15 390 feet channel work of the mean high-water line.</p> <p>16 They also, the application also requests 17 construction of 435 linear feet of a replacement bulkhead 18 with associated timber fenders, all within a maximum of 18 19 inches channel work of the mean high-water line. A 20 revision to the proposed project above was received by the 21 department on March 15, 2024. U.S. Wind is proposing to</p>	<p>Page 8</p>
<p>1 by the hearing officer.</p> <p>2 The hearing officer has the authority and duty to 3 conduct a full and fair public informational hearing, act 4 to avoid unnecessary delay and maintain order, regulate the 5 course of the hearing and the conduct of the participants, 6 extend the time period for providing supplemental written 7 comments or information for inclusion in the hearing 8 record, and rule upon request for a continuance of the 9 hearing if necessary.</p> <p>10 At the close of the comment period, the hearing 11 officer shall prepare an official record of the public 12 informational hearing and comments. It is also the 13 responsibility of my office to evaluate requests for water 14 quality certifications under §401 of the Clean Water Act, 15 which requires Maryland as a certifying authority to 16 determine whether the discharge associated with U.S. Army 17 Corps of Engineers permit application NAB-2020, that's 2-0- 18 2-0, dash 60863 complies with the state's water quality 19 standards.</p> <p>20 The department's authority is found in subtitle 9 21 of the environment article. Each certification request</p>	<p>Page 7</p>	<p>1 reduce the 32-foot-wide pier to 174 feet, a reduction of 2 451 feet. The remaining 451 feet of existing pier will 3 remain at 12 feet wide. The replacement bulkhead is 4 reduced from the original 435 linear feet to 381 linear 5 feet, a reduction of 54 feet.</p> <p>6 The purpose of the project is to provide 7 navigational access, provide facilities for operation and 8 maintenance activities, and protect the shoreline from 9 further erosion. There may be additional concerns related 10 to issues that are beyond the scope of this hearing for the 11 proposed activities proposed in the state tidal wetlands 12 application or the water quality certification decision.</p> <p>13 I ask that this hearing remain focused on issues 14 associated with those activities under review by the 15 department for the state tidal wetlands license application 16 in a request for a state water quality certification.</p> <p>17 Thank you.</p> <p>18 Andrew Bing, tonight's public hearing 19 facilitator, will now begin the hearing.</p> <p>20 MR. BING: Okay. Okay. Hopefully everyone can 21 hear me. Is this on? I'm not hearing it. There we go.</p>	<p>Page 9</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 Okay. I would now like to ask the applicant present to 2 present the proposed project. Will the presenter for the 3 applicant please come forward and introduce yourself? 4 MR. SUMNER: Can you guys hear me okay? Good 5 evening. I'm Todd Sumner, I'm with the U.S. Wind, I'm 6 Director of Permitting, and I want to thank everyone for 7 attending the MDE's hearing this evening. Can you guys 8 hear me okay? Good. (indiscernible) the MDE public 9 hearing on proposed pier and bulkhead work for U.S. Wind's 10 planned operation and maintenance facility. 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We cannot hear you. 12 MR. SUMNER: Can you guys hear me now? All 13 right. Good. I would like to very briefly describe the 14 proposed pier and bulkhead work which has been reduced in 15 size specifically for the pier reduction. U.S. Wind is 16 proposing to reduce the length of the pier from the 17 original 625 feet to 174 feet, a reduction of 451 feet. 18 U.S. Wind is also proposing to reduce the 19 bulkhead renovation work from the original 435 feet to 381 20 feet, which is a reduction of 54 feet. The reduced pier 21 and renovated bulkhead structures would not encroach into</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 perspectives, but please be courteous of all speakers and 2 understand that offensive or profane language will not be 3 allowed. 4 We are interested in hearing comments related to 5 the tidal wetland license from all interested individuals. 6 Again, neither I nor the panelists will respond to any 7 questions or comments. We are here to listen. Please 8 remember that we are recording this hearing. Speak directly 9 and clearly into the microphone, and provide your full 10 name, spell your name, address and any organization you may 11 be representing. 12 To ensure all will be heard, there will be a two- 13 minute time limit for public testimony, and a five-minute 14 time limit for any elected officials. The time will start 15 after you introduce yourself. I will remind you when you 16 have 30 seconds remaining so you can begin to wrap up your 17 testimony, and the timer will be on the screen in front of 18 you. 19 As the hearing facilitator, if you are unable to 20 conclude your comments at the end of your time period, I 21 will end your testimony and move onto the next person.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 the existing federal channel or turning basin. A reduction 2 of the pier and bulkhead work are illustrated at the three 3 poster boards located in the lobby area that you guys 4 walked through when you came into the auditorium. 5 This pier and renovated reduction was submitted 6 to the MDE on March 15, 2024. U.S. Wind is requesting that 7 these reductions be incorporated by MDE into the pending 8 applications for the tidal wetlands license 23-WL-0813 and 9 the water quality certification 24-WQC-0004. Once again, 10 I'd like to thank everyone for attending this MDE public 11 hearing, and we look forward to your comments. Thank you. 12 MR. BING: Thank you, Todd. The purpose of this 13 public hearing is to allow interested parties to provide 14 public comments related to the tidal wetland license. My 15 role as a hearing facilitator is to run a professional and 16 orderly public hearing. 17 I understand how important these issues are, and 18 I take my role as hearing facilitator seriously. I am 19 committed to providing members of the public an opportunity 20 to provide comments in an organized, fair, professional and 21 orderly manner. We look forward to hearing your</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 What I'm going to do now is I'm going to first recognize 2 and call up any elected officials to provide comments. The 3 first person that I have is actually representing the 4 Worcester County Commissioners, and that's Weston Young. 5 Mr. Young, if you could come up to the microphone right 6 there. And again, as you come up, if you could state your 7 name, spell your name and then who you are representing. 8 It should be on. 9 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Weston Young -- W-E-S-T-O-N -- 10 Y-O-U-N-G, I am the Chief Administrative Officer for 11 Worcester County, and I represent the county commissioners. 12 On their behalf, they had unanimously opposed the 13 original application. While we have submitted written 14 comments detailing the many impacts we saw with what was 15 proposed originally, we have to appreciate the reduction in 16 the scope of that, and much like the reduced scope, I have 17 reduced my comments. 18 The area around the site is known for having 19 clams, submerged aquatic vegetation, and it's also spawning 20 grounds for summer flounder in the spring, also known as 21 Fluke. If this goes forward, disturbance during</p>

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1 construction should be minimized and the choice of piling
 2 and other submerged materials should be chosen to minimize
 3 any bleaching into the water.

4 The harbor and the associated coastal bay, they
 5 have a slow flushing time, and the longer any disturbance,
 6 any contamination, it's going to just stay and have a much
 7 larger impact overall. You know, the main point I think we
 8 would like to make is that it's a little disappointing if
 9 not a little insulting to have a public hearing 30 minutes
 10 west of the project site.

11 (Applause)

12 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. In a neighboring county
 13 that's completely unaffected by the proposed project. I do
 14 want to say, you know, the last-minute change in the scope
 15 ten days ago while it appears favorable, should have re-
 16 triggered, or should have triggered a rescheduling of this
 17 public hearing, because it is (indiscernible due to
 18 applause) than what many of us focused on. So thank you
 19 for your time.

20 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. I'm not aware of any
 21 other elected officials who signed in. I was not handed

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1 that. Is there any other elected official here who would
 2 like to, yes, sir. Come on up. Sorry, I'm not aware of
 3 your name. Please just introduce yourself. Spell your name
 4 and who you are representing.

5 MR. MCGEAN: Yes. My name is Terance McGean --
 6 T-E-R-A-N-C-E -- M-C-G-E-A-N. I'm here on behalf of the
 7 Mayor and City Council of the town of Ocean City. I am the
 8 city manager of the town of Ocean City. I appreciate at
 9 least the opportunity to speak, which has not been given to
 10 us at other hearings, so thank you for that, and I'm sure
 11 others may appreciate that as well.

12 Similar to the county administrator, it is, was a
 13 little disturbing to see the quick change to this, you
 14 know, when, again, it may be beneficial, it may not be
 15 beneficial, it would have been nice to have a little more
 16 time to digest the changes that have been made prior to
 17 this hearing, and I would agree the hearing should have
 18 been delayed and also located in the county in which the
 19 work is going to be done.

20 The U.S. Wind project as a whole is a threat to
 21 the Ocean City area economy, and this proposal --

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1 (Applause)

2 MR. BING: Everyone, I'm going to grant you a
 3 little bit, but at this point we have a lot of people who
 4 have signed up to provide testimony. My role as
 5 facilitator is to try to get to as many members of the
 6 public as we can. First of all, I'm going to give you all
 7 your time.

8 We still have plenty of seats over here. I would
 9 encourage people just to walk through the back and come
 10 over here. I understand it's tempting to want to support
 11 and clap for things you like and maybe boo or something.
 12 We're not going to do that tonight. This is a hearing where
 13 we want to, I want to hear people's comments, and every
 14 time you clap or boo or anything, it's just going to delay
 15 that. So please respect that. Continue.

16 MR. MCGEAN: Thank you. This project simply
 17 makes that threat, increases that threat. Ocean City is
 18 about tourism. We're about going to the beach, surf
 19 fishing, eating fresh caught seafood overlooking our
 20 fishing fleet. We are not Sparrow's Point, nor do we wish
 21 to become Sparrow's Point, and the industrialization of our

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1 harbor and our ocean that U.S. Wind is proposing, I can't
 2 think of any bigger impact, negative impact, on water
 3 quality than that.

4 This project will displace our existing
 5 commercial fishing fleet, which is already struggling for
 6 survival. Again, it's bad enough that U.S. Wind wants to
 7 destroy their finishing grounds, now they want their dock
 8 space as well.

9 We also have significant concerns about driving a
 10 100-foot-long piling in the harbor. As the county
 11 administrator mentioned, that impact on summer flounder and
 12 shellfish. This project will also restrict the entrance to
 13 the harbor. Everyone knows that harbor is already
 14 incredibly congested. You're going to narrow the throat of
 15 it.

16 We don't know what the size of the fleet that
 17 U.S. Wind is proposing or how often it's going to be
 18 entering and leaving the harbor, and what kind of impact
 19 that's going to have on existing navigation in the harbor.

20 Just to, again, because things change
 21 significantly, my remarks are shorter than they were

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1 planned, but I would ask in the interest of water quality,
 2 let's save the West Ocean City harbor for the fishing
 3 fleet, and let's not turn it into Sparrow's Point. Thank
 4 you.
 5 MR. BING: Thank you. Is there any other elected
 6 officials that are here? Elected official?
 7 MS. SCHRAWDER: Representing.
 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Representing.
 9 MR. BING: Come on up, please. Again, if you
 10 could state your names, spell your name, and then who you
 11 are representing.
 12 MS. SCHRAWDER: My name is Pat Schrawder -- S-C-
 13 H-R-A-W-D-E-R. I'm the district representative for state
 14 senator Marybeth Carozza who is on the job in Annapolis,
 15 but has given me this written statement to read.
 16 As a state senator representing District 38,
 17 covering Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset, I have
 18 consistently objected to the offshore wind
 19 industrialization of our ocean. Based on our research of
 20 many factors, not the least of which is the negative impact
 21 on commercial fishing, which is so much a part of Ocean

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1 City.
 2 Recognizing this, the Worcester County
 3 Commissioners years ago created the special marina district
 4 of the West Ocean City harbor for the express purpose of
 5 preserving and protecting our commercial fishing. To learn
 6 that the Italian owned company, U.S. Wind, has applied for
 7 operations and maintenance facility in the marina district
 8 at which our major commercial fleet docks is doubly
 9 concerning.
 10 Since the beginning of discussions about offshore
 11 wind, the developers have promised to work with our
 12 commercial and recreational watermen, never mentioning the
 13 onshore part of the project until now, when they clearly
 14 had known about it all along. I continue to have concerns
 15 about the impact of offshore wind and all that comes with
 16 it on both our commercial and recreational fishing, one of
 17 the four key economic drivers on the shore.
 18 My concern has only deepened as a result of this
 19 sudden revelation. Industrialization of our ocean is now
 20 threatening to consume our harbor. Many questions arise
 21 from that. The ONM facility entails additional vessel

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1 traffic in the harbor, including barges and crew transport
 2 vessels, not to mention supply trucks on secondary roads.
 3 The ONM facility will replace what is now known
 4 as Martin Fish Company and Southern Connections, the only
 5 two offloading platforms in Ocean City. What is the future
 6 of commercial fishing and horseshoe extractions when there
 7 is no place to offload and catch? Constituents who are
 8 contacting my office expressing their objections are quite
 9 clear and unambiguous. They do not want this facility in
 10 our harbor.
 11 I appreciate that Maryland Department of
 12 Environment is holding this public hearing, and I expect
 13 them to seriously take into account the wishes of those who
 14 live and work in the area when coming to their conclusion.
 15 Thank you.
 16 MR. BING: Thank you very much. Are there any
 17 other elected officials here tonight that would like to
 18 provide any comments? Okay. I'm not seeing any hands, so
 19 we're going to move onto our public testimony. Again, we do
 20 have seats over here. Anyone trying to sit down?
 21 The other thing I want to let everyone know is in

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1 order to speak, you need to go the sign in table and let
 2 them know that you want to speak. They will then provide me
 3 your name, and I'm going in the order of the cards that
 4 were handed me based on how people signed in. So if
 5 there's anyone in here who didn't do that step, I'm not
 6 going to call your name. You need to go out there.
 7 If you came in and you weren't sure, you were
 8 undecided, I don't know if I want to make a comment, maybe
 9 I do, and you decided you do want to, you will need to just
 10 go out there, let them know, and then they'll let me know,
 11 okay?
 12 So at this time I am going to call on members of
 13 the public. When you come up, you will see the timers up
 14 there, and I'm going to need you to state your name, spell
 15 your name, and your address, please. I am going to call
 16 multiple names, so you'll know what order you're in, and
 17 what I'd like to do is have the person speak, and then have
 18 the person after that person just be nearby so we can save
 19 time and get through as many people as we can, all right?
 20 So the first person I'm going to call up is Kerry
 21 Harrington. After Kerry will be Ron Smith, and then, and

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 I'm sorry if I mispronounce any names, Jerry Leuters, L-E-U</p> <p>2 --</p> <p>3 MR. LEUTERS: Leuters.</p> <p>4 MR. BING: Leuters. Okay. So first Kerry. If you</p> <p>5 could come up. Okay. And again, you're going to hear me say</p> <p>6 this a lot, but state your name, spell your name and your</p> <p>7 address, please.</p> <p>8 MR. HARRINGTON: All right. My name is Kerry</p> <p>9 Harrington, K-E-R-R-Y, H-A-R-R-I-N-G-T-O-N. I live in</p> <p>10 number 5 Vine Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811.</p> <p>11 MR. BING: Okay. Go ahead.</p> <p>12 MR. HARRINGTON: Yeah. Pat covered a lot of what</p> <p>13 I was going to talk about, about the commercial harbor is</p> <p>14 indeed full of tiger fish and unloaded all our stuff. You</p> <p>15 take both of our fish houses away, then we're down to</p> <p>16 nothing, and the whole commercial harbor was built on</p> <p>17 commercial fishing.</p> <p>18 I've got three generations of my own in</p> <p>19 commercial harbor right now fishing, you know, out in</p> <p>20 fishing boats, and all of these people in this room have</p> <p>21 some kind of impact on those as well. The thing that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 Thank you. Okay. We're going to go to our next person,</p> <p>2 which is Ron Smith. After Ron will be Gary Leuters, and</p> <p>3 then Jeremy Blunt.</p> <p>4 MR. SMITH: Okay. Ron Smith, S-M-I-T-H, I live on</p> <p>5 Piney Island Drive in Bishopville, Maryland. I'm the</p> <p>6 President of the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association.</p> <p>7 Okay. One of the biggest problems is this is going to</p> <p>8 change our harbor. It's a fishing harbor. This will</p> <p>9 become an industrial harbor.</p> <p>10 Our commercial (indiscernible) as already been</p> <p>11 said by Kerry, by Pat, will change. One of the other</p> <p>12 concerns is the road, Harbor Road. It's a small road,</p> <p>13 there's residential houses and commercial business on that</p> <p>14 road. They can't handle the industrial traffic that's going</p> <p>15 to be up and down that road.</p> <p>16 The harbor, you have hundreds of recreational</p> <p>17 anglers hitting the harbor at the public ramp down there.</p> <p>18 They're going to travel through that harbor, and with your</p> <p>19 ships that size, it's going to cause chaos. Something is</p> <p>20 going to happen. With the other comments, I'm sure I'm just</p> <p>21 repeating myself, so thank you very much.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 wasn't brought up was, you know, two things weren't brought</p> <p>2 up, where they're going to onload and offload the</p> <p>3 (indiscernible) probably going to brought in by a barge or</p> <p>4 something, but whatever that is, but move it all in the</p> <p>5 time frame you have to work with.</p> <p>6 Those vessels have big props on them and stuff</p> <p>7 like that. Some of the ones I've looked at look pretty deep</p> <p>8 and pretty long, so I have never been told exactly, but</p> <p>9 they will disturb a lot of water, displace a lot of water</p> <p>10 and take a lot of space out. Also, you know, during the</p> <p>11 summer months, the traffic that comes from all the</p> <p>12 recreational vessels trying to get in and out of there with</p> <p>13 all this 24/7 going on with the influx of the commercial</p> <p>14 fleet that will be here trying to maintenance --</p> <p>15 MR. BING: You have 30 seconds.</p> <p>16 MR. HARRINGTON: Okay. And then, you know,</p> <p>17 that'll impact everything going on. The DNR is going to not</p> <p>18 like it, because they're going to have, I'm sure there are</p> <p>19 going to be some catastrophes going on, and I'm sure as</p> <p>20 somebody (indiscernible) for now, that's where I stand.</p> <p>21 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you for your comments.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>2 Our next speaker will be Jerry Leuters. After Jerry will</p> <p>3 be Jeremy Blunt, and then Kimberly Bassich.</p> <p>4 MR. LEUTERS: My name is Jerry Leuters, J-E-R-R-Y</p> <p>5 -- last name is L-E-U-T-E-R-S, 109 Bramblewood Drive,</p> <p>6 Berlin, Maryland 21811. I'm a member of the Atlantic Coast</p> <p>7 Sportfishing Association and the administrator of the Ocean</p> <p>8 Pines Anglers Club within Ocean Pines.</p> <p>9 Two statements and a question for you, and</p> <p>10 everybody has kind of hit this already. That area in West</p> <p>11 Ocean City is not an industrial harbor. You know, you don't</p> <p>12 have big mechanical ships going in and out and doing all</p> <p>13 this. It's a fishing harbor. People come there and eat at</p> <p>14 the restaurants to see that view, and anglers launch at the</p> <p>15 west O.C. ramp and they go to tackle to pick up their bait</p> <p>16 and supplies and then head out. You'll change the whole</p> <p>17 dynamic of the harbor by doing this.</p> <p>18 The second comment I have is having been with the</p> <p>19 federal government, retired from the federal government for</p> <p>20 over 30 years, this is just the beginning. Things will not</p> <p>21 stay this way. You know it and I know it. It's going to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 grow. Things will change. This is the foot in the door, 2 and then as things are realized, oh, I need more space for 3 this, I need this, it's going to grow. So despite what's 4 laid out right now, it's not going to stay this way. 5 The question I have, during demolition and 6 construction, there will be one barge and a crane, plus 7 another barge for debris. Where will the barges tie up, 8 and what is their size and where is the debris going? 9 MR. BING: Again, as we said, we're not going to 10 be responding to any questions. There is a poster section 11 out there, you can talk to colleagues, but for right here 12 we're going to be listening to comments. 13 MR. LEUTERS: Thank you. 14 MR. BING: Do you have anything else? 15 MR. LEUTERS: No, that's all. 16 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Next up is 17 going to be Jeremy Blunt. And again, if I mispronounce 18 your name, I hope you will indulge me. Kimberly Bassich 19 after that, and then Jennier Hollis after that. Jeremy? 20 State your name, spell your name, and your address. 21 MR. BLUNT: All right. Jeremy Blunt, J-E-R-E-M-Y</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y, B-A-S-S-I-C-H. I live at 5201 Elana 2 Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland 21842. I prepared my 3 statement with the previous plans, so now I had to kind of 4 redo it. 5 I'm very strongly opposed to this project. I'm, I 6 just don't know if you realize how small our harbor is and 7 how small the roads around the harbor are. There is simply 8 not enough room in our harbor to build this facility. As 9 of now, this harbor is going to house marine monitoring 10 vessels, wind turbine parts, a turbine to repair vessel, up 11 to four transfer ships and onloading and offloading 12 equipment. 13 How is this going to fit in our harbor that's 14 only 200 feet wide? And what's going to happen to our 15 commercial fishermen which provide us with sustainable 16 seafood? I have been going down to those docks since I've 17 been a kid with my parents buying seafood. I still go there 18 now. 19 What is this eyesore of a facility going to do to 20 the million-dollar homes in the area's property values? 21 What's it going to do to the restaurants and the businesses</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 B-L-U-N-T, 10337 Keiser Point Road, not Keiser, Ocean City, 2 Maryland 21842. Everybody calls it Keiser, it's Keiser. 3 Owner and captain of record sport fishing, local 4 charter boat, vice president of the marlin club. Ryan is 5 here, I know I can speak on Ryan's behalf as the marlin 6 club is against this. If anybody has been to the club, we 7 would love to have this at the club. We would have been in 8 Worcester County. 9 You can look down the harbor and see the pleasant 10 harbor, but with this industrialization of our harbor, it's 11 going to forever change our view in the harbor, and I want 12 to state that in general we're against the 13 industrialization of our harbor. MDE, you know, it's the 14 environment impact on this, doesn't make sense how this can 15 happen in our harbor. Keep this stuff as everybody said, 16 in Sparrow's Point, not here in Ocean City, Worcester 17 County. Thank you. 18 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next we're going to 19 go to Kimberly Bassich. After that will be Jennifer Hollis 20 and then Dianna Harris. 21 MS. BASSICH: Hi, my name is Kimberly Bassich --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 in the harbor? What's it going to do to their revenues? I 2 cannot, nor want to imagine the destruction to our harbor, 3 commercial fishing, recreational fishing and property 4 values, business revenues and our precious ecosystem. 5 MR. BING: Less than 30 seconds. 6 MS. BASSICH: This plan is simply unacceptable 7 and will devastate our harbor forever. Thank you. 8 MR. BING: Thank you. Next we're going to go to 9 Jennifer Hollis. After that be Dianna Harris, and then, 10 actually I think we already got Pat Schrawder, right? I do 11 know, I was hearing some comments as the last speaker was 12 going, we do have our court reporter here whose job it is 13 to capture everything that's being said, so we want to make 14 sure he can hear everything. 15 So again, when somebody is providing their 16 testimony, if we could make sure that we don't talk while 17 that's going on. So -- 18 MS. HOLLIS: Can you reset my clock? 19 MR. BING: Yeah. No, you'll get your full time. 20 So again, if you could state your name, spell your name and 21 give your address.</p>

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1 MS. HOLLIS: I'm Jennifer Hollis, H-O-L-L-I-S,
 2 12024 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, Maryland 21842. I have
 3 some questions. When I was speaking outside, they don't
 4 have a piling count for the pier. They don't have any
 5 discussion about how high the cranes are going to be that
 6 are going to be on the piers and how high and how far
 7 they're going to stick out over the water.
 8 They don't have any contractors in place right
 9 now that are going to do the pier and piling work. Is the
 10 permit only for the repair and extension of the current
 11 pier? And how far into the settlement are they with the
 12 properties for (indiscernible) and if, how can they apply
 13 for permits when they don't have ownership of a piece of
 14 real estate?
 15 We want to know what they're going to do at the
 16 ingress and egress and how it's going to change Harbor
 17 Road, how big the boats are and will they impact the
 18 channel and the dredging for the inlet? Does that fall
 19 back on the residents of Worcester County that have to pay
 20 for it, that when they do all the stirring up, we are
 21 already having problems with dredging in the channel. Is

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1 that going to go to the taxpayers?
 2 We want to know if there are going to be hour
 3 limits on the boats coming and going. I understand from
 4 speaking to the gentleman outside with U.S. Wind they are
 5 only going to be moving tools to and from the wind turbines
 6 on this, from this pier. Are the wind turbine tools only
 7 for Delaware work? Does this have anything to do with
 8 anything that's going on in the Maryland (indiscernible) or
 9 is this for another state? We need to answer that
 10 question.
 11 Can they apply for permits without ownership? I
 12 want to know, are there any vehicles going to be on the
 13 pier? They have a picture of a pickup truck. We're not
 14 allowed to do that with the pier that's currently in place,
 15 so why would they be able to do driving on the piers, the
 16 restaurants and everything --
 17 MR. BING: (indiscernible)
 18 MS. HOLLIS: -- else can't do that. What about
 19 the noise pollution? Is it going to impact the noise?
 20 It's going to impact the neighbors and the residential
 21 people that are living on the back side. What about the

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1 utilities when they put the pier in? Also, if they can
 2 reduce the size of the pier once the permit is issued, can
 3 they expand it?
 4 MR. BING: Wrap up your --
 5 MS. HOLLIS: Thank you. I'm done.
 6 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Next up we're
 7 going to have Dianna Harris. After that will be Skip
 8 Courtney, and after that, Jay Walker. If you could state
 9 your name, spell your name, and your address.
 10 MS. HARRIS: My name is Dianna Harris -- D-I-A-N-
 11 N-A, H-A-R-R-I-S, and I reside at 9742 Golf Course Road in
 12 Ocean City, Maryland. As with everybody else, my statement
 13 changed around 1:00 this afternoon when I found out that
 14 the plans had so vastly changed, but regardless of that, I
 15 was going to share with you that the plans that I
 16 originally saw were vastly different from what I read in
 17 the environmental impact statements, and as such, NEPA
 18 requires an independent environmental study, and I don't
 19 believe that's been done yet.
 20 I'm trying to flip here since it's become so
 21 different, but it is concerning to me that (indiscernible)

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1 now proposes in states that the company only needs two
 2 vessels, that's all that's being shown on these plans, when
 3 in the original (indiscernible) and I quote, "Operation of
 4 the proposed action could generate up to seven vessels and
 5 an average of 1,644 annual transits with most trips
 6 consisting of service operation vessels and crew transfer
 7 vessels to and from Ocean City."
 8 So I'll make this short since things have
 9 changed. What's written in your construction and operation
 10 plans and what's written in the original environmental
 11 impact statement in no way, shape or form match what we
 12 were just given the opportunity to see today at 1:00. It's
 13 vastly different, and so I do pose the question, are we
 14 incrementally creating the original desire? Is this the
 15 first permit, and then we'll go for another permit and then
 16 another permit?
 17 How can U.S. Wind now say that two vessels will
 18 now take care of what they once thought would require up to
 19 7 and almost 2,000 trips per year? Thank you.
 20 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. We are next going to
 21 hear from Skip Courtney. Skip here? Oh, there we go. Jay

Page 34	<p>1 Walker will be after that, and then Dr. Carolyn Johnston.</p> <p>2 MR. COURTNEY: Legally, it's Joseph Courtney --</p> <p>3 C-O-U-R-T-N-E-Y, address 9811 Winding Trail Drive, Ocean</p> <p>4 City, Maryland 21842. I agree wholeheartedly with</p> <p>5 everything that everyone has said so far, but I guess my</p> <p>6 concern is a little bit different from just looking at the</p> <p>7 water, the harbor, and things around that is the both</p> <p>8 residential and commercial buildings that are right there</p> <p>9 nearby, as well as down Golf Course Road, that the hammer</p> <p>10 pile driving, I'm not sure exactly what you call it, to</p> <p>11 drive pilings in the ground, has got to impact foundations,</p> <p>12 structures, and has that been looked into? And is there a</p> <p>13 way for a homeowner or a business owner who had a problem</p> <p>14 to get reimbursed for things that the construction of this</p> <p>15 incorrect dock may have done to their facility? Other than</p> <p>16 that, that's it. Thank you very much.</p> <p>17 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. We're next going to</p> <p>18 go to Jay Walker. After Jay will be Dr. Carolyn Johnston,</p> <p>19 and then Susan Seifert.</p> <p>20 MR. WALKER: Good afternoon. This is Jay Walker,</p> <p>21 spelled W-A-L-K-E-R, 3173 Stoneybrook Drive in Salisbury,</p>	Page 36	<p>1 DR. JOHNSTON: What happens after they --</p> <p>2 MR. BING: We're not getting her. Hold on for</p> <p>3 one second.</p> <p>4 DR. JOHNSTON: What happens after this project is</p> <p>5 done? What is U.S. Water or Wind going to do with the</p> <p>6 property? Are they leasing it? Or are they buying it? And</p> <p>7 after they're done with it, are they subjected to sending</p> <p>8 it back to Maryland? Or to buy from another country?</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Our next person is</p> <p>11 Susan Seifert. After that is Mr. Dover.</p> <p>12 MS. SEIFERT: Susan Seifert -- S-E-I-F-E-R-T.</p> <p>13 104 --</p> <p>14 MR. BING: Just get closer to it, I think.</p> <p>15 MS. SEIFERT: 10415 Norwich Road, West Ocean</p> <p>16 City, Maryland 21842. Not only am I a resident, but also</p> <p>17 own a fishing vessel and keep that at Sunset Marina, and</p> <p>18 I'm also a boat member of the Ocean City Marlin Club, and I</p> <p>19 have one statement and one question.</p> <p>20 U.S. Wind cannot legally apply for this permit</p> <p>21 when they don't own the property. I understand Martin Fish</p>
Page 35	<p>1 Maryland. I represent (indiscernible) with Salisbury,</p> <p>2 Maryland which represents all the counties from Delaware</p> <p>3 down through Virginia. We've been following this project,</p> <p>4 and as much as we empathize with the impact that it may</p> <p>5 have on our fishermen, we also think that this will bring</p> <p>6 good economic benefit to some of the local businesses, the</p> <p>7 small businesses in the area. So we think it will help out</p> <p>8 our (indiscernible) but also our businesses. So thank you</p> <p>9 very much, and I appreciate the time.</p> <p>10 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next we will go to</p> <p>11 Dr. Carolyn Johnston and Susan Seifert, and then Ben Dover.</p> <p>12 DR. JOHNSTON: Carolyn Johnston.</p> <p>13 MR. BING: State your name, spell your name, and</p> <p>14 your address, please.</p> <p>15 DR. JOHNSTON: Dr. Carolyn Johnston, J-O-H-N-S-T-</p> <p>16 O-N, from 1002 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, and 629 North</p> <p>17 Park Drive, Salisbury, Maryland. One very simple question.</p> <p>18 What happens after they finish the project.</p> <p>19 MR. BING: Hold on one second. Let me make sure</p> <p>20 you, let me stop your time here. Okay. Speak into it</p> <p>21 again.</p>	Page 37	<p>1 and Southern Connections have signed the application --</p> <p>2 MR. BING: Okay. What I want to do, just hold</p> <p>3 tight. We're going to take a brief recess right now.</p> <p>4 We're going to see if this other mic will work better here.</p> <p>5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me, sir? Her mic</p> <p>6 cut out on that first statement. I'd like to hear it</p> <p>7 again, please.</p> <p>8 MR. BING: Let's make sure that mic is working.</p> <p>9 Just say --</p> <p>10 MS. SEIFERT: I have a statement.</p> <p>11 MR. BING: Go.</p> <p>12 MS. SEIFERT: I'd like to read a statement.</p> <p>13 MR. BING: Hold on. I want to start you over.</p> <p>14 Your name, spell your name, everything, and then from the</p> <p>15 very beginning, because not everyone heard what you said,</p> <p>16 okay? And I'll give you your full time.</p> <p>17 MS. SEIFERT: Susan Seifert, S-E-I-F-E-R-T, 10415</p> <p>18 Norwich Road, West Ocean City, Maryland 21842. Not only am</p> <p>19 I a resident, but I do own a fishing vessel that I keep at</p> <p>20 Sunset Marina, and I am a boat member of the Ocean City</p> <p>21 Marlin Club. I'd like to read a statement and ask a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 question.</p> <p>2 U.S. Wind cannot legally apply for this permit</p> <p>3 when they don't own the property. It is my understanding</p> <p>4 Martin Fish and Southern Connections have signed the</p> <p>5 application as riparian owners, intending to sell. If U.S.</p> <p>6 Wind pays the buyers using a loan, what happens to</p> <p>7 ownership if they default after starting construction?</p> <p>8 Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to go to</p> <p>10 our next card. Is there a Mr. Dover here? There is,</p> <p>11 okay. And then after that will be Andrew Butler, and then</p> <p>12 Lindsay Meeks. State your name, spell your name and provide</p> <p>13 your address, please.</p> <p>14 MR. ROBINSON: My name is actually Daniel</p> <p>15 Robinson, I just wanted to hear you say it.</p> <p>16 MR. BING: Hold on. One second, Dan. Let me just</p> <p>17 capture your name here, okay? What's your last name?</p> <p>18 MR. ROBINSON: Robinson, R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N.</p> <p>19 MR. BING: Okay. State your name and your</p> <p>20 address, please.</p> <p>21 MR. ROBINSON: R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N, 313 Bayshore</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 and they want to come into our community and build these</p> <p>2 type of things and want us to give them a permit to do so.</p> <p>3 This is not fair.</p> <p>4 They want to pretend that oh, this is green</p> <p>5 energy and they think you're stupid and they think that</p> <p>6 you'll believe that. We are the environmentalists, we are</p> <p>7 the surfers, we are the boaters, we're the fishermen, not</p> <p>8 them. They're here to plunder our natural resources and</p> <p>9 they're doing it with our own tax dollars. Thank you for</p> <p>10 your time.</p> <p>11 MR. BING: We're going to take a brief recess.</p> <p>12 We're having a little bit of problem with the mic. I want</p> <p>13 to consult with our technology person. It's 6:47. I'm</p> <p>14 going to call in a recess. I want everyone to stay here,</p> <p>15 this is going to be 30 seconds at most. We want to make to</p> <p>16 come up and make sure that we're getting everything we need</p> <p>17 here. But again, please don't leave, we're going to start</p> <p>18 this right back up.</p> <p>19 (Whereupon there was a brief recess.)</p> <p>20 MR. BING: Okay. We're going to come back from</p> <p>21 recess right now. It is 6:48 p.m., and I'm going to bring</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 Drive, Ocean City, Maryland. This is pretty thrilling</p> <p>2 standing getting to talk to some of the important people,</p> <p>3 so I'll just turn the microphone to face the important</p> <p>4 people in the room.</p> <p>5 The applicant, Mr. Jeffrey Grybowski, is he here?</p> <p>6 Stand up. No, couldn't be bothered to be here. Okay,</p> <p>7 understood, understood. Well, since he's not here to speak</p> <p>8 for himself, I'll just read from his twitter (phonetic)</p> <p>9 what he had to say about you all.</p> <p>10 May 15th, he said the NIMBY's are losing. This</p> <p>11 is Jeffrey Grybowski who is CEO of U.S. Wind, by the way,</p> <p>12 U.S. (indiscernible) also deception, it's not a U.S.</p> <p>13 company. NIMBY's he said, he called you. The NIMBY's are</p> <p>14 losing, hopefully, he said. NIMBY, I didn't know what that</p> <p>15 meant -- NIMBY, means not in my back yard.</p> <p>16 He thinks it's funny, and he likes to make fun of</p> <p>17 people who don't want this monstrosity in their own</p> <p>18 backyard. On September 29th, he said, I could spend all day</p> <p>19 pushing back on garbage opinions from local skeptics. He</p> <p>20 also thinks you're garbage. He thinks those of us here are</p> <p>21 worse than garbage. This is what these people think of us,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 us back. If people could quiet down, please, and everyone</p> <p>2 get seated, I want to get back on. I have a lot of index</p> <p>3 cards here, a lot of people want to speak, okay? Okay. So</p> <p>4 we're going to come back in. The next people I have,</p> <p>5 Andrew Butler next, and Lindsay Meeks, and then Richard</p> <p>6 Nieman. Is Mr. Butler here? Okay, great. Again, if you</p> <p>7 could state your name, spell your name and your address.</p> <p>8 What I want to remind everyone, the mics are</p> <p>9 sensitive, so every time that you turn away or so something</p> <p>10 like this, it stops working. So try to just sort of stay</p> <p>11 in close proximity to the mic, and hopefully we'll capture</p> <p>12 everything you're saying, okay?</p> <p>13 MR. BUTLER: My name is Andrew Butler A-N-D-R-E-W</p> <p>14 B-U-T-L-E-R, 5406 Arcadia Avenue, Upperco, Maryland. Yes,</p> <p>15 I drove three hours to come down here to speak. The</p> <p>16 monstrosity that you are trying to build in the ocean,</p> <p>17 plundering our natural resource and in the middle of our</p> <p>18 harbor is a sin.</p> <p>19 The -- I run the charter vessel out of</p> <p>20 Fisherman's Marina to Splitville. I have a hard time</p> <p>21 getting into my slip on a busy weekend, getting through</p>

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1 that harbor, and you're going to put a 30-foot-wide support
 2 vessel on the end of a 10-foot bulkhead? You are going to
 3 make it almost impossible and pretty much dangerous.

4 The next thing is there's no full construction
 5 plans. We're seeing plans that show pilings, and this is
 6 how big the bulkhead is going to be. So who is the
 7 construction company, how are they planning to do the
 8 demolition? How are they planning to do the construction?
 9 What kind of cranes, also known as whirlies, are they going
 10 to use to drive the pile? None of this is laid out there.

11 I do commercial demolition in Baltimore City for
 12 my full-time job. I demolish piers, dilapidated piers for a
 13 living. The environmental impact that A, the demolition of
 14 the existing pier in the practical reef that's growing on
 15 it will, the cost to the water will be detrimental.

16 On top of that, we have the pile driver. I
 17 suggest everyone in the immediate vicinity put --

18 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

19 MR. BUTLER -- vibration monitors in your house,
 20 because you're going to be getting cracks in your walls and
 21 everything else. So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

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1 MR. BING: Thank you. Next we're going to hear
 2 from Lindsay Meeks. After Lindsay will be Richard Nieman,
 3 and then Kate McCloskey.

4 MS. MEEKS: Hello. My name is Lindsay Meeks, I
 5 live at 113 Pitt Street in Berlin, Maryland.

6 MR. BING: Just spell your name, please.

7 MS. MEEKS: L-I-N-D-S-A-Y, M-E-E-K-S. I'm a
 8 Worcester County resident, I'm a property owner. I also am
 9 a member of the Delmarva Condo Manager's Association, and
 10 (indiscernible) Manager's Association.

11 In my opinion, revised plans should have resulted
 12 in a public hearing process and permitting process being
 13 completely restarted. In regard to the tidal wetland
 14 application, the proposed plans are not factual. They do
 15 not have piling counts, they do not have factual
 16 perpendicular dimensions that are going out into the
 17 harbor, or do they have dimensions on the vessels that will
 18 be parked there to service these wind farms.

19 The plan sheets do not meet the requirements of
 20 the wetlands and waterways programs tidal wetland division
 21 general checklist. Will this be another bait and switch

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1 permitting process, just like the permitting of the wind
 2 turbine heights and distances offshore?

3 In regard to the water quality certification, has
 4 it been waived from the legislative changes that took place
 5 in November of 2023 in regard to the Section 401 of the
 6 Clean Water Act? Are we still entitled to the processes
 7 laid out in the water quality certification process. Thank
 8 you.

9 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. Our next speaker will
 10 be Richard Nieman. After Richard will be Kate McCloskey.

11 MR. NIEMAN: Name is Richard Nieman, that's
 12 spelled, I think you got Richard, R-I-C-H-A-R-D, and Nieman
 13 would be N as in Nancy, I-E-M-A-N, 45 Wood Duck Drive,
 14 Berlin, Maryland 21811. I am here as a member of the
 15 Atlantic Coast Sport Fishing Association.

16 My biggest concern here, I'll say ditto to
 17 everything that was said so far, except for we may have
 18 special jobs coming here. I don't think we need the types
 19 of jobs coming here that are going to eliminate the other
 20 jobs, the fishermen and everybody else, builders and such,
 21 because of what's happening.

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1 The biggest thing that we were trying to do as an
 2 organization was as the Atlantic Coast Sport Fishing
 3 Association put some truth in this whole process. When
 4 this started with U.S. Wind, we did a very good job of
 5 doing that, getting rid of people telling us that things
 6 were only going to be this high, and others saying they
 7 were going to be this high, and I said, go find out what it
 8 really is.

9 In this particular case, I could tell you it
 10 would be hypocritical for us as an organization to go along
 11 with the change here, and the basic reasoning is being if
 12 we didn't support, we voted not to support U.S. Wind as far
 13 as offshore, and it would be hypocritical for us to now
 14 turn around and say we're going to support the support for
 15 the project that we didn't support, if that makes sense to
 16 you, okay?

17 So with that in mind, just as an example of our
 18 (indiscernible) when we were told originally we had plans
 19 that these turbines are going to be so high. These
 20 turbines right now if you count with what goes in the
 21 ground, one of these poles is going to be, the mono pile is

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1 going to be twice the size of the Washington Monument.
 2 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.
 3 MR. NIEMAN: Yeah. That's fine, I can do that.
 4 So basically I'm saying that is the reason we become
 5 skeptical about what's going to happen, and all this can
 6 happen in charge orders. If they change things again,
 7 we've already seen it. Ten days ago or 15 days ago, they
 8 changed all this information, and here we are sitting here
 9 wondering why we're sitting down in this town. Thank you.
 10 And by the way, I personally oppose this.
 11 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next we're going to
 12 hear from Kate McCloskey. After Kate will be, all I have
 13 is a name that says Ms. Gwin, and then Donsella Wilson.
 14 MS. MCCLOSKEY: Hi, my name is Kate McCloskey, K-
 15 A-T-E, M-C-C-L-O-S-K-E-Y, 87 Nottingham Lane, Ocean Pines.
 16 I just learned I'm a NIMBY tonight, not in my back yard. I
 17 completely oppose this, and just like the gentleman before
 18 me said, why are we talking about support for something
 19 that we all totally oppose?
 20 And so I just have a simple question today. Based
 21 on the larger 30,000 square foot prospective, since we will

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1 all fight tooth and nail against any offshore wind farm in
 2 our beautiful coastline, isn't any money that you put
 3 toward this permit and pier a complete waste of money?
 4 Thank you.
 5 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next is Ms. Gwin. As
 6 you come up, I will need a first name and a last name.
 7 Spell it, and your address, please. And then will be
 8 Donsella Wilsson.
 9 MS. GWIN: Jeanene Gwin -- J-E-A-N-E-N-E G-W-I-N,
 10 10448 Azalea Road, Berlin, Maryland. Ms. Gwin is 30 years
 11 of being a teacher. I don't have a first name anymore. I
 12 am the wife of a commercial fisherman.
 13 MR. BING: Try to get a little closer to the mic.
 14 MS. GWIN: I am the wife of a commercial
 15 fisherman. I am the mother of a commercial fisherman, and I
 16 own a retail seafood business. These docks are over the
 17 end of the commercial fishing harbor, period. Besides that
 18 fact, put up these docks with these buildings by an Italian
 19 run company who doesn't care about us or our harbor, not
 20 only will they be destroying the waterways, but the
 21 pollution coming out of these docks is unbelievable.

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1 You also have to think that these windmills have
 2 a 20-year life span. After 20 years, they're gone, and
 3 those buildings are sitting there empty. What will become
 4 of those? There's also the chance that an Italian owned
 5 company will decide to sell because it's not making any
 6 money. Then they can be sold to China, they can be sold to
 7 another country in the world, and then we have another
 8 country sitting in our backyard. A country and a business
 9 that doesn't care about us. Thank you.
 10 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. Next we're going to
 11 go to Donsella Wilson, and then Kerrie Bunting is, okay.
 12 Is Donsella here? Donsella Wilson? Okay. I'm going to
 13 put you at the end of the list. Oh, okay. You're Kerrie
 14 Bunting?
 15 MS. BUNTING: Yes.
 16 MR. BING: Yes, come on up. I do, as you're
 17 coming up, I want to remind people that if you do want to
 18 provide comments, you need to go out to our sign in table,
 19 let them know, they'll get me the card. The other thing is
 20 for some reason you came in and you just don't feel like
 21 signing in, if you want to receive the decisions that the

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1 Maryland Department of Environment will eventually make,
 2 you need to sign in with an email so that they can then
 3 email it out to you. I guess I'm out of time. Okay. Your
 4 name, spell your name and your address, please.
 5 MS. BUNTING: Kerrie Bunting, K-E-R-R-I-E,
 6 Bunting, B-U-N-T-I-N-G. I live at 307 West Market Street in
 7 Snow Hill, but I'm the president of the Worcester County
 8 Chamber of Commerce in Ocean Pines. I've got two points to
 9 make. One is just to culminate everything that you've
 10 already heard and will probably continue to hear.
 11 This company has had a total lack of
 12 consideration for the residents, the government within the
 13 towns and county that are being affected by this. We are
 14 sitting in Salisbury for some silly reason. Every plan that
 15 comes out changes. Sometimes at the last minute so that we
 16 don't have time to prepare. So just the total lack of
 17 consideration that this company has shown our region is
 18 deplorable. That's number one.
 19 Number two, (indiscernible) Chamber of Commerce,
 20 I look at what happens to the businesses. I live here
 21 personally, I love this place, I don't want to see this

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 place destroyed by these monstrosities, but looking at what 2 happens to the businesses, you can say oh, that's just a 3 commercial fisherman. That's a business owner. That is a 4 business. 5 That one person provides for their family and 6 maybe even more, and then they sell to Martin Fish. They 7 sell to Harborside. They sell and they sell and tourists 8 come in and buy, residents buy. It is a huge chain reaction 9 that will be affected well beyond just the commercial 10 fishing harbor. 11 Tourism honestly -- 12 MR. BING: Thirty seconds. 13 MS. BUNTING: -- Wes did mention tourism, and 14 Terry did, just the fact that it's going to destroy our 15 aesthetic, what makes us special. We aren't 16 industrialized. We haven't sold out to big dollar 17 companies, and we want to keep it that way. Thank you. 18 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. Next we're going to 19 hear from Terry McGean. We already heard from Terry, 20 right? That name seems familiar. Next we're going to hear 21 from Ryan Slipper, then Bill Reddish, and then Paula</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 MR. REDDISH: No, I will go ahead and comment. 2 MR. BING: Okay. 3 MR. REDDISH: And I will comment on behalf of the 4 Congressman, because some comments he has made in public -- 5 MR. BING: Before you do that, just state your 6 name, spell your name and who you're representing. 7 MR. REDDISH: My name is Bill Reddish, B-I-L-L, 8 R-E-D-D-I-S-H, representing Congressman Andy Harris. 9 Longworth office building, Washington, Dc. 10 Congressman Harris has stated publicly before 11 that U.S. Wind does not negotiate in good faith, and that 12 is after extensive conversations with members of that 13 company. A perfect example of that tonight, and I'll 14 certainly be passing this onto the congressman, is a last- 15 minute change in the construction plans for this, and then 16 going ahead and holding this hearing 30 miles away from the 17 area that's being affected, and also not rescheduling this 18 hearing when we've had a chance to look at the revised 19 plan. So we're hoping that DNR will reconsider and hold 20 another public hearing when we can all have an opportunity 21 to look at this revised plan that was sprung on us at the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 Donalds. 2 MR. SLIPPER: How are you all? Ryan Slipper, R- 3 Y-A-N, last name Slipper, S-L-I-P-P-E-R, 12942 East Hotown 4 Road, Ocean City, Maryland. My question to you guys is has 5 any sort of CFD, computational fluid dynamics model or any 6 sort of sediment model been ran for morphological purposes 7 to find out what, what's going to happen to the channel? 8 Right south of the existing peer, there's a 9 channel that those residences and homeowners just south use 10 to access the main part of the bay, and there's boats up to 11 70 foot that come in and out. So what's going to happen to 12 property values when you start having sediment being 13 stirred up and now the channel is blocked? 14 There's hundreds of millions of dollars of real 15 estate south of this. What's happening to it? That's it. 16 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Next is Bill 17 Reddish. It says here that you're with the Congressman 18 Harris's office. Are you representing him here tonight? 19 MR. REDDISH: Well, I didn't sign up, so I don't 20 know how you got my name. 21 MR. BING: If you don't want to --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 last minute. 2 So again, I will repeat. Congressman Harris has 3 said it in the past. U.S. Wind does not negotiate in good 4 faith. Thank you. 5 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next we're going to 6 hear from Paula Donalds. After that is Joanna Tyranski, and 7 then after that is Dr. Noah Bressman. 8 MS. DONALDS: Hello, my name is Paula Donalds -- 9 P-A-U-L-A, D-O-N-A-L-D-S, 1009 Shoemaker Manor Drive, 10 Salisbury, Maryland. This morning amongst looking at the 11 changes of what was happening, this is what I read in the 12 paper. U.S. Wind has begun, has been going up and down the 13 coast offering several communities \$2 million spread out in 14 annual payments of \$100,000 over 20 years in exchange the 15 community officials would not make any negative comments or 16 objectives to the U.S. Wind's proposed project. 17 In addition, the land to be used for trans-, I'm 18 so sorry. My phone just went away. Transmission lines that 19 would connect the turbines to the power grids. 20 MR. BING: Anything else, ma'am? 21 MS. DONALDS: Oh, yeah. I got time.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 MR. BING: Okay.</p> <p>2 MS. DONALDS: I'm looking at the people that are</p> <p>3 telling you no. The definition of no is no, stop raping</p> <p>4 us. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. Next will be Joanna</p> <p>6 Tyrawski. Okay. Good. And then Dr. Noah Bressman, and</p> <p>7 then after that is Tom Maronick, Sr.</p> <p>8 MS. TYRAWSKI: My name is Joanna Tyrawski, T-Y-R-</p> <p>9 A-W-S-K-I, number 1 141st Street. Lived there since 1962</p> <p>10 when we lost our first house due to a tidal wave to the '62</p> <p>11 storm. The ocean rises and falls. I agree with everything</p> <p>12 that has been said before me, but have you ever seen a wave</p> <p>13 take out a whole street up on a sand dune?</p> <p>14 My husband was in the National Guard. His name is</p> <p>15 Blain Bunting, and also the National Guard told him he had</p> <p>16 to go and sit on the bridge to Rehoboth for three days. I</p> <p>17 don't know what is going to happen. It shouldn't be, this</p> <p>18 company should not be able to sell this dock or anything on</p> <p>19 it to another foreign country.</p> <p>20 We are America. The land of the home and the</p> <p>21 free. I don't think we're going to be the land of the home</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 little fish you get at bait shops that they call minnows. I</p> <p>2 have them tattooed on my arm, I really love mummichogs. I</p> <p>3 research everything about mummichogs, particularly how they</p> <p>4 interact with wetlands and coastal environment structures.</p> <p>5 I am researching currently how they're</p> <p>6 interacting with multiple different things, but I'll skip</p> <p>7 that for now and say it is my expert opinion that the</p> <p>8 environmental impacts associated with this project have</p> <p>9 been exaggerated and misinterpreted. While there have been</p> <p>10 a relatively short, there will be relatively short-term</p> <p>11 disturbances as there will be any time you dig up and build</p> <p>12 structures in the water, this project will, this specific</p> <p>13 project to remediate the bulkhead would protect the</p> <p>14 shoreline and wetland from erosion and degradation over a</p> <p>15 long period of time and allow it to be functional for a</p> <p>16 long period of time instead of its currently limited life</p> <p>17 span.</p> <p>18 Currently the bulkhead in that area is in a poor</p> <p>19 state being undercut which causes sediment to flow into the</p> <p>20 bay, eroding the shoreline and wetlands in the process,</p> <p>21 allowing contaminants and pollutants in the soil to release</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 and the free if things like this and other countries can</p> <p>2 sell our waterways, our animal rights, and our fisheries.</p> <p>3 We that are sitting back not doing a thing need to get out</p> <p>4 there. And why wasn't this in Ocean City where the project</p> <p>5 is to be built? We are all suckers. Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next up is Dr. Noah</p> <p>7 Bessman. And then we will hear from Tom Maronick, Jr., and</p> <p>8 then Michael Maykrantz. Actually can we, whatever you did</p> <p>9 to lower it, can you raise that back?</p> <p>10 DR. BRESSMAN: Do you need me to spell anything?</p> <p>11 Or you got it written down?</p> <p>12 MR. BING: No, state your name, spell your name,</p> <p>13 and your address.</p> <p>14 DR. BRESSMAN: Okay. I am Dr. Noah Bressman --</p> <p>15 N-O-A-H, B-R-E-S-S-M-A-N, and I live at Monitor Court in</p> <p>16 Salisbury, Maryland. I am a marine biologist and fish</p> <p>17 biology professor at Salisbury University, a kayaker, a</p> <p>18 bird watcher, and an avid angler that is a member of</p> <p>19 multiple local Ocean City fishing clubs, though I'm here on</p> <p>20 my own behalf, and I work on my own.</p> <p>21 I am an expert on mummichogs. Those are the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 in the waterways during erosion. I've looked at the full</p> <p>2 plans, and I've read those exhaustingly long reports and</p> <p>3 they seem to be a robust plan to make a long-standing</p> <p>4 structure that will serve it's functionality without --</p> <p>5 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.</p> <p>6 DR. BRESSMAN -- for a long time and protect the</p> <p>7 shoreline from erosion, thereby protecting the wetlands and</p> <p>8 the mummichog's favorite habitat. Therefore, from an</p> <p>9 environmental perspective, I see no reason to stop this</p> <p>10 project as the long-term positive environmental impacts</p> <p>11 without (indiscernible) the relatively short-lived negative</p> <p>12 impacts, and therefore I give my support to it.</p> <p>13 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next up will be Tom</p> <p>14 Maronick, Jr. After that is Michael Maykrantz, and then</p> <p>15 Christina Hulslander.</p> <p>16 MR. MARONICK: Hi. I'm Tom Maronick, Jr. -- M-A-</p> <p>17 R-O-N-I-C-K, Jr. 14108 White Street, Ocean City, Maryland.</p> <p>18 MR. BING: And I'm sorry, did you spell your name?</p> <p>19 MR. MARONICK: Yes. M-A-R-O-N-I-C-K, Jr.</p> <p>20 MR. BING: Okay. Great. Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. MARONICK: So I'm best known as the lawyer on</p>

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1 the billboard. So I will --

2 MR. BING: Try not to touch the mic. I think that

3 somehow turns it off.

4 MR. MARONICK: All right. I'll start again.

5 Thanks you guys for being here to listen to us. I'm best

6 known as the lawyer on the billboard, so I'm here to tell

7 you about this thing. This has been an absolute deception

8 of the people of Ocean City and the people of the lower

9 shore.

10 They move the ball every single time we get close

11 to it to try to address it. Changing the game at the last

12 minute with this hearing is just the latest in what they

13 do, and they don't provide the information. They don't talk

14 about how in prior projects the lines that are supposedly

15 going to be there for years where they bury it so deep that

16 in some jurisdictions, you've actually seen the lines raise

17 up after a little bit over a year, one year.

18 You're having these powerful electric cords raise

19 up. We have not been told about what they're going to do

20 with these wind turbines greater than the Washington

21 monument. You stand the Washington Monument on its head,

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1 that's what we're looking at. The economic value to Ocean

2 City and the lower shore, the impact study has never been

3 done, just a draft.

4 They have not put their names on an impact study

5 that actually tells us how this is going to affect our

6 property values, how it's going to affect our tourism, how

7 it's going to affect our commercial fishing, how it's going

8 to affect the white marlin open, how it's going to affect

9 hotels, how it's going to affect restaurants, how it's

10 going to affect the mammals in the water, how it's going to

11 affect the marine life in the water.

12 They haven't done that because it's just one more

13 step --

14 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

15 MR. MARONICK: -- towards going after the people

16 who actually have the back yard, who actually bought the

17 real estate, who have businesses here like (indiscernible)

18 and all the people here. I'm going to ask everybody here

19 to do one thing. If you oppose this project, do me a

20 favor. Stand up right now and let's show them what Ocean

21 City thinks of this. Thank you.

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1 MR. BING: Next up is Michael Maykrantz. Mr.

2 Maykrantz, is he here? Is that you coming up? Okay.

3 Before you, just wait there. Before you speak, I want to

4 just read than names of the people that I have remaining.

5 That was if you don't hear your name, you know that I need

6 to get a card from you, you need to go out.

7 So it's Michael Maykrantz, then Christina

8 Hulslander, Andrea Caggiano, again I'm sorry if I'm

9 mispronouncing, Zachery Thornton, Derrek Dunn, Kimberly

10 Dixon, Jimmy Hahn, Spencer Rowe, Melanie Bodencak, I'm

11 sorry, Bodencak, B-O-D-E-N-C-A-K, and then Joe Schanno.

12 So just those are the names I still have

13 remaining. If you intend to speak, want to speak and didn't

14 hear your name, I just need you to go out, get an index

15 card to sign up and they'll bring me the index card. Mr.

16 Maykrantz, your name, spell your name and your address.

17 MR. MAYKRANTZ: Yes, sir. Michael Maykrantz --

18 M-I-C-H-A-E-L, M-A-Y-K-R-A-N-T-Z, 12536 Deer Point Circle,

19 Berlin, Maryland in West Ocean City.

20 I think a lot of people came tonight expecting a

21 different type of hearing. This is obviously an MDE

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1 hearing, and I don't know if we'll ever have the chance to

2 actively engage what the people behind this project to try

3 to get answers other than story boards and all the thing

4 that are typically set up for these types of hearings.

5 I wanted to bring everyone's attention in the

6 audience, under the commercial marine district, these

7 gentlemen are allowed to operate and do what they intend to

8 do under the zoning code that's currently approved by

9 Worcester County. I want to read that.

10 Many of you will remember 20 years ago Worcester

11 County put that into place to protect the fishing harbor

12 from any residential development or anything that would

13 adversely affect that area. I want to read the code, the

14 purpose and intent so everyone keeps this in mind as we

15 move forward.

16 The district is intended to preserve and protect

17 Worcester County's commercial fishing industry while

18 allowing for commercial, industrial and recreational uses

19 which are a necessity if located in proximately close to

20 waterfront areas.

21 The way this is written right now, these

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 gentleman can move forward without having to require any 2 additional public comment period. The Worcester County 3 commissioners passed a zoning code, and that's on the 4 record right now. They have no requirement to have any 5 additional input from anyone in this room. So if you want 6 to exercise your right and try to contain what's happening 7 and also minimize the impact of (indiscernible) approved, 8 you need to direct your effort to the Worcester County 9 Commissioners, otherwise we won't have a voice in the 10 future about this issue. Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. I called this name 12 earlier, no one responded. I'm going to do it one more 13 time. Donsella Wilson. Maybe you were in the restroom or 14 something. Donsella Wilson, did you want to provide any 15 comments? No? Okay. Next up will be Christina Hulslander, 16 and then Andrea Caggiano. State your name, spell your name 17 and your address.</p> <p>18 MS. HULSLANDER: Thank you. I am Christina 19 Huslander: C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A Huslander H-U-L-S-L-A-N-D-E-R. 20 I reside at 2410 St. Lukes Road, Salisbury, Maryland. 21 However, I'm a Worcester County resident. I'm right at the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 much power.</p> <p>2 I do currently work in building performance, and 3 I know that we can actually dramatically reduce electric 4 load by improving the quality of our construction of our 5 buildings, our insulation --</p> <p>6 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.</p> <p>7 MS. HULSLANDER: -- our techniques and using the 8 latest technology. So thank you for considering all 9 aspects of why we are here discussing this potential 10 project. Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. Next we're going to 12 go to Andrea C-A-G-G-L-A-N-O. Sorry that I'm having such 13 difficulty pronouncing that name. Then Zachery Thornton 14 after that.</p> <p>15 MS. CAGGIANO: That's okay. Hi, I'm Andrea 16 Caggiano, C-A-G-G-I-A-N-O. I'm actually from the state of 17 Delaware, so I apologize for taking up your time. I just 18 wanted to come, and I am a little confused as well as far 19 as the changing of products, but I do want to mention for 20 everybody in the room that today the government, you know, 21 the good old administration released the bonus tax credits</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 line.</p> <p>2 I appreciate the opportunity to speak and I think 3 the concerns that were brought up by people here are very 4 legitimate. There's clearly some unanswered questions and 5 running the whole gamut of the logistics of the space and 6 the impacts on the community. There's obviously trust 7 issue as to whether or not this company is going to go 8 forward with things the way they have articulated.</p> <p>9 But ultimately why are we discussing this issue? 10 It falls back to our electrical needs and our demands on 11 the electrical system. I worked in PJM, the power grid 12 system. We as a community, citizens, elected officials, 13 community members, representation of municipalities, we 14 collectively can help reduce the need for these kinds of 15 projects by moving forward with energy efficiency measures 16 within buildings, within lighting.</p> <p>17 I'd like to ask the community members here and 18 our elected officials to champion the fact that we all need 19 to kind of throttle down our usage, because these kind of 20 projects, any kind of project to provide enough capacity 21 for our electric usage is because we're all consuming so</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 for these ports, encouraging private sector investments. 2 Connecticut, obviously Ocean City, Maryland's 3 next Virginia with these ports. If you go and look at 4 Connecticut New London port, originally it was a \$50 5 million project. At this point, they've spent \$300 million 6 on this. The port authority assured the state bond 7 commission that they would not seek additional taxpayers' 8 money and the promises were not kept.</p> <p>9 (Indiscernible) now has asked for another \$6 10 million just in case. During these review processes and 11 all these changes that we're seeing up and down the east 12 coast, it is pretty obvious what these changes are for. Now 13 Connecticut is now allowing Orstead to sublease their port. 14 So I'm warning Maryland to dive into this, especially 15 Denrep. With Denrep being from the state of Delaware, 16 these cables that are coming to our wetlands, our protected 17 watersheds, won't be coming through.</p> <p>18 We do have the Delaware Coastal Zone Act that 19 protects us, as well as the state of Maryland's, I have 20 been reading, especially in the port category. The 21 significant economic value to you guys of this, if the</p>

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1 cables don't come through Delaware, you know they're coming
 2 through here.
 3 We've already read articles, the lady just read
 4 an article --
 5 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.
 6 MS. CAGGIANO: -- that's in, that says the cables
 7 will be coming through, because they are looking at
 8 Maryland, because Delaware will stop it. With these cables
 9 coming through, NOAA, BOEM, RODA, they put out a 388-page
 10 report, a science report on the unclear impacts of these
 11 EMF cables.
 12 U.S. Wind (indiscernible) lied to the state of
 13 Delaware, and the Bethany Beach meeting that I attended, he
 14 was telling our community that the EMF cables would not
 15 have any --
 16 (Alarm beeping)
 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Finished.
 18 MS. CAGGIANO: -- impact at all.
 19 MR. BING: I need you to wrap your thought up.
 20 MS. CAGGIANO: Please review the information of
 21 this, and I will put all of this in writing for the public

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1 comment.
 2 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next up is Zachery
 3 Thornton. After Zachery will be Derrek Dunn, and then
 4 Kimberly Dixson.
 5 MR. THORNTON: Good evening. My name is Zachery
 6 Thornton, Z-A-C-H-E-R-Y, Thornton, T-H-O-R-N-T-O-N. You can
 7 send correspondence 77th Street, Executive Center, 109 77th
 8 Street, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.
 9 So I am a college student here at Wor-Wic, as
 10 well as a small business owner in Ocean City, Maryland. So
 11 with me being young and in college, please disregard my
 12 ignorant statements here. But, you know, I would like to
 13 speak on behalf of Ocean City, on behalf of the youth, on
 14 behalf of a lot of perspectives.
 15 You know, I think we want to say no to this. Why
 16 would, in my perspective, an outside, a domestic threat to
 17 Ocean City come in and terrorize our local community? Not
 18 only our economic standpoint, but our locals that have been
 19 here way longer than you.
 20 So I'd like to just remind you guys who has been
 21 here longer, and who holds the true power. So if anyone

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1 would like to combat this, please, you know, reach out to
 2 me. Look up the CBT entertainment studios, there's power in
 3 film, there's power in creative arts, and together we can
 4 not only create the future, but we can save Ocean City,
 5 Maryland. Thank you.
 6 MR. BING: Our next speaker will be Derrek Dunn.
 7 After Derrek will be Kimberly Dixson, and then Jimmy Hahn.
 8 MR. DUNN: Derrek Dunn, Derrek, D-E-R-R-E-K,
 9 Dunn, D-U-N-N, 816 East Salisbury Parkway, Salisbury,
 10 Maryland. To echo what (indiscernible) expressed earlier
 11 by the young lady, this project is important, so I speak in
 12 support of it because of our continuing increase in energy
 13 consumption.
 14 This project would allow us to supplement our
 15 needs in terms of energy consumption, therefore I support
 16 it and hope you'll approve it. Thank you.
 17 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next up will be
 18 Kimberly Dixson, and then Jimmy Hahn.
 19 MS. DIXSON: Hey there. My name is Kimberly
 20 Dixson, K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y, D-I-X-S-O-N. I live at 9624 West
 21 3rd Street, which is literally one block away from this

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1 project, and I oppose it completely. I am here for these
 2 fishermen that have been here for years and generations.
 3 I'm a realtor, I sell real estate. I bought a piece of
 4 property, two properties in west OC because it's quiet,
 5 it's beautiful.
 6 We see the fishermen, we see the landscaping. If
 7 you do this, you're going to take it away, and I won't like
 8 it, and I'm going to leave. So not only that, have you been
 9 down our road on a Saturday or a Sunday in the summer when
 10 it's harborside and there are bands playing? You can't
 11 even drive a car down there. There are so many people down
 12 there, there are so many boats, there are so many people
 13 enjoying the harbor and the marina and the restaurants and
 14 it's just not fair.
 15 What you are proposing is taking it away. Just go
 16 somewhere else, go to Baltimore, go to freaking Baltimore.
 17 Go over there and put your fricking things over there.
 18 Don't take away our Ocean City harbor. It's bad in so many
 19 ways. Environmentally, residentially, every which way I
 20 can think of, and that's where I stand. I oppose it 100
 21 percent. Thank you.

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1 MR. BING: Thank you. Okay. Next up will be
 2 Jimmy Hahn, and then will be Spencer Rowe. Again, as Jimmy
 3 is coming up, if you do, if you've been sitting here not
 4 sure if you want to make a comment, we still have time. You
 5 just have to go out to the sign-in table, let them know,
 6 and they'll let me know. So if you can state your name,
 7 spell your name and give your address and maybe just tilt
 8 the mic up a little bit towards you.

9 MR. HAHN: All righty. It's Jimmy Hahn J-I-M-M-Y
 10 H-A-H-N, 356 Hickory Point Road, Pocomoke, Maryland. I'm a
 11 commercial fisherman. This is going to affect my
 12 livelihood, because now I no longer have a place to pack
 13 out. This is how U.S. Wind operates. They tell you one
 14 thing, and then when you find out that that's not going to
 15 work, they go oh, here's let's do this.

16 We're going to work with the community and we're
 17 not going to affect you as much now. We're not going to
 18 build a 600-foot pier. Guess what? This is just the
 19 beginning phase of getting their foot in the door, they're
 20 going to get their little permit, and then after they get
 21 their little permit, they get the dock change. Next thing

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1 you know, they're going to be like this doesn't work. You
 2 know, we can (indiscernible) up here, so now let's extend
 3 it out 50 feet, then 100 feet, then 600 feet. Then they're
 4 all going all the way up (indiscernible)

5 So we are going to lose not only the two fish
 6 houses that we have where all the commercial boats pack
 7 out, we're going to lose our waterfront. They're going to
 8 have a pier out there. They're not going to just stop it,
 9 let's fix up Martin, let's fix up the connection. They're
 10 just, this is just they're start -- just like they've done
 11 for the last five or six years.

12 Every time they tell you something, it's just a
 13 constant lie. Just like we were supposed to have 200-foot
 14 windmills, and now we got 1,000-foot windmills. You know,
 15 let's do 200-foot windmills to get started, we're 27 miles
 16 off the beach. Now we've got 1,000-foot windmills 11 miles
 17 off the beach. It's just their start, it's what they
 18 always do, you know?

19 This is, west Ocean City is not an industrial
 20 park. Go down to Norfolk, Norfolk has already got the
 21 facilities to handle all this, you know? If they want to

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1 tie a boat up, one or two boats up around here, that's
 2 fine, but we don't need a maintenance operation facility in
 3 west Ocean City. There is not enough room.

4 How can we, how can MDE vote on an application
 5 that when you add the numbers up that they presented, and
 6 what they show on the charts are two different numbers?
 7 How can you accept a permit that's not even accurate? You
 8 know, there's a whole bunch of questions here that, you
 9 know, obviously there's a bunch of people that care about
 10 this, and we saw three people that really supported it.

11 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

12 MR. HAHN: But how can, you know, how can we vote
 13 on an applicant that's not even correct? That we just
 14 found out about at 1:00 this afternoon? How? You know,
 15 let's go back and restudy all this, and we need some
 16 environmental impact studies. That's it.

17 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Next up is
 18 Spencer Rowe, and then Melanie Bodencak. Again, if you
 19 could state your name, spell your name and your address,
 20 please.

21 MR. ROWE: Spencer Rowe, S-P-E-N-C-E-R R-O-W-E,

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1 12430 Fleetwood Drive, Ocean City. I'm a professional
 2 environmental consultant and have been for 35 years. I
 3 deal with permits all the time. I can say a lot about the
 4 environmental impacts for this project, but there's one
 5 criteria that MDE must examine that would make this permit,
 6 they can't issue it. And that is it says in the regulations
 7 that the maintenance and operation must be assured.

8 How can you assure the operation if the project
 9 offshore that is designed to service has not been approved?
 10 Thank you.

11 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next up is Melanie.
 12 After Melanie will be Joe Schanno. Again, if you could
 13 state your name, spell your name and give your address,
 14 please.

15 MS. BODENCAK: I appreciate you trying to
 16 pronounce the name. It's Melanie, M-E-L-A-N-I-E,
 17 Bodencak, B-O-D-E-N-C-A-K. I'm at Six 87th Street, Ocean
 18 City, Maryland 21842.

19 Mostly mine is a statement. I didn't really
 20 think too much about the whole thing of the wind turbines
 21 until I started hearing (indiscernible) talk about it. I

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1 don't understand how any of this is considered green
 2 energy, because I think we're talking about wind energy,
 3 but, you know, these things are coming at the cost of our
 4 land, our nature, and our culture.

5 Not only that, why is no one talking about where
 6 these are being made? We're taking precious minerals, and
 7 often from a condo that's by slave labor to put these
 8 together (indiscernible) I guess coal mines or whatever
 9 they do in China, with all the coal that is being used to
 10 produce these things to come over, all of the metal that's
 11 being used, how much cement is going down into our ground,
 12 how usable is our land or our waters after these are put
 13 in?

14 If they blow up, and I've seen videos that they
 15 do blow up, what comes out of them? Is there toxic, like
 16 anything toxic inside of them? I don't hear anyone talking
 17 about this. And not only that, what gets me is why aren't
 18 we talking to our neighbors in New Jersey? Why aren't we
 19 talking to our neighbors and our homeowners in Virginia?

20 What are they experiencing today with all of the
 21 noise, everything --

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1 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

2 MS. BODENCAK: -- their homes. So basically how
 3 is this clean energy? It's really not. But let's go back
 4 to fossil fuels, because if we were using fossil fuels,
 5 first that (indiscernible) we would have already stopped it
 6 and investigated it, and we're not doing it. Thank you.

7 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Our next speaker
 8 will be Joe Schanno.

9 MR. SCHANNO: Hello.

10 MR. BING: State your name, spell your name and
 11 your address.

12 MR. SCHANNO: My name is Joe Schanno. It's J-O-E
 13 S-C-H-A-N-N-O. I live at 75 Battersee Road, and that's in
 14 Berlin, Maryland 21811. I want to say thank you for you
 15 guys coming up. You have a thankless job. That's a long
 16 ride from Annapolis or wherever you're coming from, and I
 17 want to welcome you to our backyard, but I'd also like to
 18 say that our entire community is built on our natural
 19 treasures.

20 Most of the industries in this room are built on
 21 that, be it by friends in the fishing club with Ron, be it

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1 Kevin and the restaurants, be it our realtors who sell and
 2 make a living by owning and selling houses in our area.

3 I don't see us having a positive result from
 4 this, and I'd like to say while I appreciate your time and
 5 effort coming down here, I appreciate the time and effort
 6 that everybody is coming here to do, we need to protect our
 7 home, we need to protect our friends, we need to protect
 8 our community, and that would be stopping this project and
 9 making sure that our community and our homes stay safe and
 10 pristine the way it is now. Thank you.

11 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Next up is Jay
 12 Phillips. As you come up, if you could state your name,
 13 spell your name and your address, please.

14 MR. PHILLIPS: Hello, my name is Jay Phillips --
 15 J-A-Y, P-H-I-L-L-I-P-S. My address is 13029 Drum Point
 16 Road, Ocean City, Maryland. I just want to bring it to your
 17 attention, you are here to listen to our impacts. After
 18 listening to Michael over here, the commercial harbor, the
 19 reason why the rezoned that was because we get funded from
 20 the federal government through the Army Corps of Engineers
 21 in which to dredge out our harbor, dredge out our inlet,

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1 and our ocean way.

2 If the commercial people are impacted greatly, we
 3 no longer will have that federally funded money in which to
 4 keep the inlets open, so that is a huge impact that you all
 5 need to consider with the industrialization of the west
 6 Ocean City harbor. Thank you.

7 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. At this time I do
 8 not have any other names of anyone who had indicated a
 9 desire to provide testimony. This hearing is going to
 10 remain open until 8:00. Right now it is 7:35 p.m. Is there
 11 anyone who has not had the opportunity to speak who would
 12 like to speak? If you could just raise your hand and let
 13 me know that. Okay. I'm not seeing any hands, so what I'm
 14 going to do --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm right here, sir.

16 MR. BING: Oh, I do see a hand. Okay. So come
 17 up. If you can state your name, right there. State your
 18 name, spell your name and provide your address.

19 MR. HADDAD: Hello, everyone, and thank you very
 20 much for being here tonight. My name is Paul Haddad --
 21 it's H-A-D-D-A-D. I'm from --

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1 MR. BING: And your address, please.

2 MR. HADDAD: It's -- I grew up in Ocean City,

3 Maryland, 407 136th Street, Villa B, and now I live in

4 Ocean Pines, Maryland, 39 Nottingham Lane.

5 I'm here tonight just to say thank you guys for

6 being here and taking your time to truly listen to

7 everyone's thoughts and everyone's comments involving this

8 project. I'm currently a senior at Salisbury University.

9 I'm going to my last year of college. I've been in Ocean

10 city my whole life. I've been here ever since I was three

11 months old. Grew up here, I graduated from Stephen Decatur

12 in 2019, grew up in Holy Savior Catholic Church, that's

13 where I go to church at.

14 I grew up as a major active person in our

15 community. I'm very, I'm going to say I'm going to be very

16 objective when it comes to this project. So I've been doing

17 a lot of research on my end, I also have internship

18 experience as well with Oceanic Network, they're a

19 nonprofit for advocating offshore wind and other

20 (indiscernible) technologies, green hydrogen and things

21 like that.

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1 I also am interning currently with the Maryland

2 state government. I'm definitely very thrilled to say I've

3 had those internship opportunities, they've definitely

4 helped me along in my journey.

5 MR. BING: You have a limited amount of time, so

6 try to get --

7 MR. HADDAD: I'm going to say this about the

8 project. There is a lot of positive things that do come

9 from this project, and job creation. Obviously

10 (indiscernible) CO2 admissions, you know, yes, it's not,

11 there's no net CO2 admissions --

12 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

13 MR. HADDAD: -- from this project such as there is

14 an impact, but in the long term, it pays off. There is

15 creatin of artificial reefs from this project that can help

16 fishing. Like yes, there are still concerns. Like I said,

17 the federal government could have pushed them further

18 offshore, as well as many of you today have addressed your

19 concerns and everything.

20 I definitely have looked into all of that. I'm

21 very familiar with it, and I just wanted to say thank you

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1 again, and I appreciate your time.

2 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Again, I have gone

3 through all the names that were provided to me. Is there

4 anyone who has not had a chance to speak? Yes, sir. Come

5 up. I need you to state your name and spell your name and

6 provide your address, please.

7 MR. WEBSTER: My name is Darryl Webster, D-A-R-R-

8 Y-L, Webster, W-E-B-S-T-E-R. I am a Sommerset county

9 commissioner, but I'm not here on behalf of Somerset

10 County. 26429 California Inn Road, Princess Anne, Maryland

11 21853.

12 I'll try to be brief, because I'm known to be

13 long-winded. Well, I have to be. I'm going to jump around

14 because I've got a little bit of ADD. I struggle when

15 other people get up here and talk about jobs being created

16 at the price of other human beings. We've got what we need

17 here on the lower eastern shore. We don't need anybody

18 else coming in and destroying people's livelihoods in order

19 to create jobs for Ocean City or Worcester County or for

20 anywhere else on the lower eastern shore.

21 I just, you know, I don't, I get a little upset.

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1 As a matter of fact, I'm shaking right now because people

2 drink this Kool-Aid, and they try to justify it by saying

3 we're going to do this and we're going to do that. I have

4 read up on U.S. Wind in some of these other places,

5 Connecticut, cables exposed on its shoreline, yet they

6 don't know what to do.

7 They are already in crisis mode now with the cost

8 and the finances, and then they turn around some of these

9 places they will actually pay the counties and the fines as

10 opposed to going ahead and, you know, following the

11 procedures that they told you in the first place they were

12 going to do. They just say, we don't care, we'll just

13 throw money at it, and we'll just let it roll.

14 You've got places like this on the eastern shore

15 I'm so tired, we're dealing with it in Somerset County.

16 I'm so tired of seeing big business come in here because

17 they think we don't know what we're doing or who we are or

18 what we've got, and they just want to, they want to come in

19 here, we've got flatlands, they want your guys' property

20 because somebody is willing to give up --

21 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

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1 MR. WEBSTER: -- there is so much wrong with
 2 letting these people come into our communities and push us
 3 aside and take over what everybody has moved here or lived
 4 here and grown up with all these years, and to say it's on
 5 behalf of creating more jobs. We don't need more jobs. We
 6 need to support the people that we got right now and
 7 support their livelihoods and keep Ocean City as beautiful
 8 as it is. Thank you.

9 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Is there anyone else
 10 here who has not had the opportunity to speak who would
 11 like to? Sir? I know you've been here from the beginning,
 12 but you're going to hear me say it one more time. Please
 13 state your name, spell your name and your address, please.

14 MR. CROPPER: My name is Robert Cropper, R-O-B-E-
 15 R-T, C-R-O-P-P-E-R, 3605 Pittsville, Maryland. I live on
 16 the water in Ocean City. My family goes back over 200 years
 17 in Ocean City and I'm very proud of it. We get stepped on
 18 like the red-headed stepchild down here all the time. This
 19 windmill stuff out there is ridiculous, this is part of it.

20 The meeting, the Atlantic (indiscernible)
 21 Sportsman's Association, we've heard all the good about it,

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1 we've heard all the bad about it. We made up our own
 2 decisions about it that we don't want it. Now, this is
 3 just another push to bring it in there. There's no room
 4 down there for any of this. If they think they can make
 5 that turn at the corner to take their window blades down
 6 there, I've seen them on the highways, there's no way.

7 The white marlin mall would be wiped out if they
 8 tried to make that turn. The impact of a bulkhead around, I
 9 (indiscernible) Talbert Street, Dorchester Street, all of
 10 the piers down there. I remember back when it was creosote
 11 on the poles that you were covered every night. If you
 12 don't think the poison that you're going to put in that
 13 water and the horseshoe crabs, the fish, everything is
 14 going to be devastated, because they're just going to come
 15 in here and here it is again, they are forcing us to come
 16 to these meetings and change it again.

17 I mean, how many times can you, how can you give
 18 a permit to somebody who is trying to change the rules?
 19 Every time you see it, I mean, offshore winds, I've seen
 20 them move a mile out, a mile in, how big, how little, it's
 21 bull. It's big business coming to a small town and taking

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1 it over.

2 If they can't keep the windmills running on the
 3 land like they did in Cambridge, oh, the maintenance for
 4 the windmill was too much.

5 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

6 MR. CROPPER: You're going to stick it on the
 7 ocean where you can't even get to them? I mean, come on,
 8 there has got to be some common sense put stuff, and we're
 9 not seeing it out of our government. Thank you all.

10 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else who has
 11 not had a chance to, yes, come on up. If you could just
 12 state your name and spell your name and your address,
 13 please.

14 MS. FLAX: Hi, Bernie Flax, 212 Henrys Mill
 15 Drive, Berlin, Maryland. Flax is spelled F-L-A-X.
 16 Everyone here tonight has spoke from their heart, and I
 17 agree with all of them. The one thing that hasn't been
 18 spoken about is the impact on families.

19 My husband and I have been coming down here for
 20 35 years. We owned a vacation home here, we had a vacation
 21 condo here. We moved here full time, ten days after our

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1 youngest son graduated from high school, because that's
 2 where we wanted to be. The impact that this area has had
 3 on our lives with our children right of Assateague Island
 4 they are just fishing with them, exploring and we have
 5 three sons, and it was just a marvelous experience.

6 My husband and I had a clam farm. I just can't
 7 even fathom what the watermen here are going through right
 8 now, the stress. Our favorite restaurants are in that
 9 harbor.

10 I have been a realtor for 20 years, I'm now the
 11 CEO of our local association. I take calls all day long
 12 from our membership. This is our lifestyle, this is where
 13 we choose to live, this is where we -- I have a
 14 granddaughter, Veronica, that now she comes down, and she's
 15 learning to fish, and she's learning to clam, and I just
 16 can't imagine --

17 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

18 MS. FLAX: -- not having that place to take our
 19 families and our youth to to grow up with the kind of life
 20 that my kids had, that they were blessed to have. Thank
 21 you.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else? Yes, 2 sir. Come on over to the microphone. Again, your name, 3 spell your name and your address, please.</p> <p>4 MR. FREESE: Good evening. Ryan Freese, R-Y-A-N, 5 Freese, F-R-E-E-S-E, Ocean City, Maryland, 9705 Shady Grove 6 Court. Thank you, all guys, for being here. We all need 7 to be here, but one of the things I just want to make sure 8 we all understand, and he mentioned it ten times in the 9 beginning. We all know we're against these windmills. 10 They are here to talk about these docks you're 11 trying to build. I don't agree with it. I hate that they've 12 changed the plan at the last minute, but my point to you 13 all --</p> <p>14 MR. BING: Make sure you're talking into the mic.</p> <p>15 MR. FREESE: My point to you all is we need to 16 make sure, and thank you, Pat, for being here, for 17 Marybeth, we need to talk to our local Worcester County 18 officials and make sure they understand where we stand. We 19 need to fight it right in our backyard. These guys don't 20 care. That's all I've got to stay. Thank you.</p> <p>21 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Again, is there</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 Division, Care of Miles Simmons, 201 Baptist Street, Suite 2 22, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.</p> <p>3 After the hearing record closes, the department 4 will review and consider all the comments received during 5 the hearing and comment period. If necessary, the 6 department may request additional information from the 7 applicant to address certain comments. After all relevant 8 issues have been resolved to the department's satisfaction, 9 the department will make its decision and final report and 10 recommendation to the wetlands administrator for the Board 11 of Public Works who shall then present the proposed project 12 for decision at a public meeting of the board.</p> <p>13 In accordance with COMAR Chapter 23.02.04, the 14 board's decision will be final and there will be no further 15 opportunity for administrative review. Any person 16 withstanding may petition for judicial review of the 17 board's decision in the Circuit Court in Worcester County. 18 The petition for judicial review must be filed within 30 19 days of the board's decision.</p> <p>20 The public comments received will also be 21 considered by the department when rendering a decision on</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 anyone else here who did not get the opportunity to speak 2 who would like to speak? Okay. I'm not seeing any hands up 3 right now, so I as the facilitator of this hearing would 4 like to thank all of you for coming out tonight and for 5 being respectful and professional and getting your comments 6 in.</p> <p>7 Before everyone leaves, we do have one more 8 thing. I'm now going to turn the proceedings back over to 9 the hearing officer, Mr. Stewart, to close us out.</p> <p>10 MR. STEWART: Can you hear me without feedback? 11 All right. I'll pack up. All right. Thank you. The formal 12 hearing record will remain open until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, 13 April 9th, 2024. All correspondence must be postmarked or 14 emailed by this date. Please see the posted QR codes which 15 will direct you to the department's U.S. Wind, Inc. project 16 information page, which has Miles Simmons' contact 17 information to provide comments by letter or email.</p> <p>18 Please forward any additional comments that you 19 would like to make for the record to, and his address and 20 stuff are up there, but Maryland Department of Environment, 21 Water and Science Administration, Federal Wetlands</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 the certification request 24-WQC-0004. MDE will make a 2 decision on the WQC request no later than Thursday, January 3 16, 2025. The department's decision and accompanying 4 information will be sent to the interested persons list, 5 the applicant and the Corps.</p> <p>6 Any person who has agreed by the department's 7 decision may appeal the decision by filing a request within 8 30 days of the publication of the WQC (indiscernible) in 9 accordance with COMAR 26.08.02.10F4. If you're unsure if 10 you are on the interested party persons list, for example 11 of you learn of the hearing through MDE's website, please 12 contact Miles directly to be added to that list. He can 13 also make sure before you leave if you didn't sign the list 14 outside, please do so. That makes you an interested 15 person, whether spoke here or not.</p> <p>16 We appreciate your interest in this project, and 17 thank you for attending the hearing. The time is now 7:49, 18 and this hearing is now adjourned. Thank you for coming.</p> <p>19 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.) 20 21</p>

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Dana Dezarn, hereby certify that I transcribed from audio file the proceedings to the best of my ability in the foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of the audio files produced.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my name on April 5, 2024.

Dana Dezarn
Transcriber

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