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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 Steward with the Maryland Department of the Environment.</p> <p>MR. STEWARD: Good evening. My name is Jonathan Steward, 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 Steward, 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>

Page 6

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.

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.

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

Page 7

1 by the hearing officer.

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.

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.

20 The department's authority is found in subtitle 9
 21 of the environment article. Each certification request

Page 8

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.

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.

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.

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

Page 9

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.

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.

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.

17 Thank you.

18 Andrew Bing, tonight's public hearing facilitator
 19 will now begin the hearing.

20 MR. BING: Okay. Okay. Hopefully everyone can
 21 hear me. Is this on? I'm not hearing it. There we go.

Page 10

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 Tood 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 (indiscernible) to the

Page 11

1 existing federal channel or turning basin. A reduction of
 2 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

Page 12

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.

Page 13

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

Page 14

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

Page 15

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 --

Page 16

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

Page 17

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

Page 18

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

Page 19

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

Page 20

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

Page 21

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

Page 26

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

Page 27

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 --

Page 28

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

Page 29

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 Trotter, 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.

Page 30

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

Page 31

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

Page 32

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, NIPA
 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)

Page 33

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>

Page 38

1 question.

2 U.S. Wind cannot legally apply for this permit

3 when they don't own the property. It is my understanding

4 Martin Fish and Southern Connections have signed the

5 application as riparian owners, intending to sell. If U.S.

6 Wind pays the buyers using a loan, what happens to

7 ownership if they default after starting construction?

8 Thank you.

9 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to go to

10 our next card. Is there a Mr. Dover here? There is,

11 okay. And then after that will be Andrew Butler, and then

12 Lindsay Meeks. State your name, spell your name and provide

13 your address, please.

14 MR. ROBINSON: My name is actually Daniel

15 Robinson, I just wanted to hear you say it.

16 MR. BING: Hold on. One second, Dan. Let me just

17 capture your name here, okay? What's your last name?

18 MR. ROBINSON: Robinson, R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N.

19 MR. BING: Okay. State your name and your

20 address, please.

21 MR. ROBINSON: R-O-B-I-N-S-O-N, 313 Bayshore

Page 39

1 Drive, Ocean City, Maryland. This is pretty thrilling

2 standing getting to talk to some of the important people,

3 so I'll just turn the microphone to face the important

4 people in the room.

5 The applicant, Mr. Jeffrey Grybowski, is he here?

6 Stand up. No, couldn't be bothered to be here. Okay,

7 understood, understood. Well, since he's not here to speak

8 for himself, I'll just read from his twitter (phonetic)

9 what he had to say about you all.

10 May 15th, he said the NIMBY's are losing. This

11 is Jeffrey Grybowski who is CEO of U.S. Wind, by the way,

12 U.S. (indiscernible) also deception, it's not a U.S.

13 company. NIMBY's he said, he called you. The NIMBY's are

14 losing, hopefully, he said. NIMBY, I didn't know what that

15 meant -- NIMBY, means not in my back yard.

16 He thinks it's funny, and he likes to make fun of

17 people who don't want this monstrosity in their own

18 backyard. On September 29th, he said, I could spend all day

19 pushing back on garbage opinions from local skeptics. He

20 also thinks you're garbage. He thinks those of us here are

21 worse than garbage. This is what these people think of us,

Page 40

1 and they want to come into our community and build these

2 type of things and want us to give them a permit to do so.

3 This is not fair.

4 They want to pretend that oh, this is green

5 energy and they think you're stupid and they think that

6 you'll believe that. We are the environmentalists, we are

7 the surfers, we are the boaters, we're the fishermen, not

8 them. They're here to plunder our natural resources and

9 they're doing it with our own tax dollars. Thank you for

10 your time.

11 MR. BING: We're going to take a brief recess.

12 We're having a little bit of problem with the mic. I want

13 to consult with our technology person. It's 6:47. I'm

14 going to call in a recess. I want everyone to stay here,

15 this is going to be 30 seconds at most. We want to make to

16 come up and make sure that we're getting everything we need

17 here. But again, please don't leave, we're going to start

18 this right back up.

19 (Whereupon there was a brief recess.)

20 MR. BING: Okay. We're going to come back from

21 recess right now. It is 6:48 p.m., and I'm going to bring

Page 41

1 us back. If people could quiet down, please, and everyone

2 get seated, I want to get back on. I have a lot of index

3 cards here, a lot of people want to speak, okay? Okay. So

4 we're going to come back in. The next people I have,

5 Andrew Butler next, and Lindsay Meeks, and then Richard

6 Nieman. Is Mr. Butler here? Okay, great. Again, if you

7 could state your name, spell your name and your address.

8 What I want to remind everyone, the mics are

9 sensitive, so every time that you turn away or so something

10 like this, it stops working. So try to just sort of stay

11 in close proximity to the mic, and hopefully we'll capture

12 everything you're saying, okay?

13 MR. BUTLER: My name is Andrew Butler A-N-D-R-E-W

14 B-U-T-L-E-R, 5406 Arcadia Avenue, Upperco, Maryland. Yes,

15 I drove three hours to come down here to speak. The

16 monstrosity that you are trying to build in the ocean,

17 plundering our natural resource and in the middle of our

18 harbor is a sin.

19 The -- I run the charter vessel out of

20 Fisherman's Marina to Splitville. I have a hard time

21 getting into my slip on a busy weekend, getting through

Page 42

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.

Page 43

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

Page 44

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 Port Fishing Association.

16 My biggest concern here, I'll say ditto
 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.

Page 45

1 The biggest thing that we were trying to do as an
 2 organization was as the Atlantic Coast Port 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

Page 46

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

Page 47

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.

Page 48

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

Page 49

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

Page 50

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

Page 51

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 --

Page 52

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

Page 53

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 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>

Page 58

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,

Page 59

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.

Page 60

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

Page 61

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

Page 62

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.

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.

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

Page 63

1 line.

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.

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.

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

Page 64

1 much power.

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 --

6 MR. BING: Thirty seconds.

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.

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.

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

Page 65

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.

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.

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

Page 66

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, Noah, Boden, Rhoda, (phonetic) they put out
 10 a 388-page report, a science report on the unclear impacts
 11 of these 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

Page 67

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

Page 68

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

Page 69

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.

Page 70

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

Page 71

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

Page 72

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,

Page 73

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 687th 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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>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 --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>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,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>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 --</p>

Page 78

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.

Page 79

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

Page 80

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 Californian Road, Princess Ann, 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.

Page 81

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.

Page 82

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,

Page 83

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

Page 84

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

Page 85

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.

Page 86

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.

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 --

14 MR. BING: Make sure you're talking into the mic.

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.

21 MR. BING: Okay. Thank you. Again, is there

Page 87

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.

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 office, Mr. Steward, to close us out.

10 MR. STEWARD: 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.

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

Page 88

1 Division, Care of Miles Simmons, 201 Baptist Street, Suite
 2 22, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

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.

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.

20 The public comments received will also be
 21 considered by the department when rendering a decision on

Page 89

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.

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 if 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.

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.

19 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)
 20
 21

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

WORD INDEX

<p>< \$ > \$100,000 53:14 \$2 53:13 \$300 65:5 \$50 65:4 \$6 65:9</p> <p>< § > §16-202 5:12 §401 7:14 8:8</p> <p>< 1 > 1 54:9 1,000-foot 71:14, 16 1,644 33:5 1:00 32:13 33:12 72:14 100 69:20 71:3 1002 35:16 1009 53:9 100-foot-long 17:10 10337 27:1 104 36:13 10415 36:15 37:17 10448 47:10 109 25:5 67:7 10-foot 42:2 11 71:16 11:59 87:12 113 43:5 12 9:3 12024 30:2 12430 73:1 12536 60:18 12942 51:3 13029 76:15 136th 78:3 14108 57:17 141st 54:9 15 8:21 11:6 46:7 15th 39:10 16 4:20 8:10 89:3</p>	<p>174 9:1 10:17 18 8:18 1962 54:9</p> <p>< 2 > 2 3:20 2,000 33:19 20 48:2 53:14 61:10 85:10 2-0 7:17, 18 200 28:14 82:16 200-foot 71:13, 15 201 88:1 2019 78:12 2023 8:8 44:5 2024 1:10 2:4 8:10, 21 11:6 87:13 90:8 2025 89:3 20-year 48:2 212 84:14 21801 88:2 21804 1:15 21811 22:10 25:6 44:14 75:14 21842 27:2 28:2 30:2 34:4 36:16 37:18 67:8 73:18 21853 80:11 22 88:2 23.02.04 5:1 88:13 23-WL-0813 8:7 11:8 23-WL- 0813/WQC 1:6 24/7 23:13 2410 62:20 24-WQC-0004 1:7 8:9 11:9 89:1 25 1:10 25th 2:4 26.08.02.10F 3:20</p>	<p>26.08.02.10F4 89:9 26.24 5:1 26.24.01.05 3:20 26.24.01.05E 6:10 26429 80:10 27 71:15 29th 39:18</p> <p>< 3 > 30 12:16 14:9 23:15 25:20 29:5 40:15 47:10 52:16 88:18 89:8 30,000 46:21 307 49:6 30-foot-wide 42:1 313 38:21 3173 34:21 32000 1:14 32-foot-wide 8:13 9:1 35 73:2 84:20 356 70:10 3605 82:15 38 18:16 381 9:4 10:19 388-page 66:10 39 78:4 390 8:15 3rd 68:21</p> <p>< 4 > 401 44:5 407 78:3 435 8:17 9:4 10:19 45 44:13 451 9:2 10:17</p> <p>< 5 > 5 22:10 90:8 50 71:3 5201 28:1 5-204 3:18 54 9:5 10:20</p>	<p>5406 41:14</p> <p>< 6 > 6:00 2:4 6:47 40:13 6:48 40:21 600 71:3 600-foot 70:18 60863 7:18 62 54:10 625 10:17 625-foot-long 8:13 629 35:16 687th 73:17</p> <p>< 7 > 7 33:19 7:35 77:10 7:49 89:17 70 51:11 75 75:13 77th 67:7</p> <p>< 8 > 8 8:8 8:00 77:10 816 68:9 87 46:15</p> <p>< 9 > 9 7:20 9624 68:20 9705 86:5 9742 32:11 9811 34:3 9th 87:13</p> <p>< A > ability 90:3 able 31:15 54:18 absolute 58:7 accept 72:7 accepted 4:14 access 9:7 51:10 accompanying 89:3</p>	<p>account 20:13 accuracy 4:16 accurate 72:7 Act 4:7 6:15 7:3, 14 8:8 44:6 65:18 action 33:4 active 78:14 actively 61:2 activities 9:8, 11, 14 activity 4:2 5:11 6:18 add 72:5 80:14 added 89:12 addition 4:4 53:17 additional 4:5 9:9 19:21 62:2, 5 65:7 87:18 88:6 address 12:10 21:15 22:7 26:20 29:21 32:9 34:3 35:14 38:13, 20 41:7 47:7 49:4 55:13 58:11 60:16 62:17 70:7 72:19 73:13 75:11 76:13, 15 77:18 78:1 80:6 82:13 84:12 86:3 87:19 88:7 addressed 79:18 adjourned 89:18 Administration 2:12, 17 64:21 87:21 Administrative 4:7 6:15 13:10 88:15 administrator 15:12 17:11 25:7 88:10 admissions</p>
---	--	--	--	---

79:10, 11
adversely 61:13
advisable 6:3
advised 4:12
advocating
 78:19
aesthetic 6:6
 50:15
affect 59:5, 6, 7,
 8, 9, 10, 11
 61:13 70:11, 17
afternoon
 32:13 34:20
 72:14
ago 14:15 19:3
 46:7 61:10
agree 15:17
 34:4 54:11
 84:17 86:11
agreed 89:6
ahead 22:11
 52:1, 16 81:10
Alarm 66:16
allow 11:13
 56:15 68:14
allowed 12:3
 31:14 61:7
allowing 56:21
 61:18 65:13
America 54:20
amount 79:5
Andrea 60:8
 62:16 64:12, 15
Andrew 2:5
 9:18 38:11
 41:5, 13
A-N-D-R-E-W
 41:13
Andy 52:8
angler 55:18
anglers 24:17
 25:8, 14
animal 55:2
Ann 80:10
Annapolis
 18:14 75:16
Annotated 4:21
annual 33:5
 53:14

answer 31:9
answers 61:3
anybody 27:6
 80:17
anymore 47:11
apologize 64:17
appeal 89:7
appears 14:15
Applause 14:11,
 18 16:1
applicable 5:19
 6:5
applicant 4:1
 6:10, 20 10:1, 3
 39:5 72:13
 88:7 89:5
applicant's 3:12
application
 7:17 8:7, 11, 16
 9:12, 15 13:13
 37:1 38:5
 43:14 72:4
applications
 11:8
applied 19:6
apply 30:12
 31:11 36:20
 38:2
appreciate
 13:15 15:8, 11
 20:11 35:9
 63:2 73:15
 76:4, 5 80:1
 89:16
approve 68:16
approved 61:8
 62:7 73:9
April 87:13
 90:8
aquatic 13:19
Arcadia 41:14
area 11:3
 13:18 15:21
 20:14 25:10
 35:7 52:17
 56:18 61:13
 76:2 85:2
areas 61:20
area's 28:20
arm 56:2

Army 7:16
 76:20
Article 3:19
 4:21 5:13 7:21
 66:4
articles 66:3
articulated 63:8
artificial 79:15
arts 68:3
aside 82:3
asked 65:9
aspects 64:9
Assateague 85:3
assist 5:13
associated 4:2
 7:16 8:12, 13,
 18 9:14 14:4
 56:8
Association
 24:6 25:7 43:9,
 10 44:15 45:3
 82:21 85:11
assure 73:8
assured 65:6
 73:7
A-T-E 46:15
Atlantic 24:6
 25:6 44:15
 45:2 82:20
attendance
 2:20 3:5, 6, 13
attended 66:13
attending 10:7
 11:10 89:17
attention 61:5
 76:17
audience 61:6
audio 90:3, 6
auditorium 11:4
Authority 4:19
 5:8, 10 7:2, 15,
 20 65:6
authorization
 8:11
Avenue 28:2
 41:14
average 33:5
avid 55:18
avoid 7:4

aware 14:20
 15:2
A-W-S-K-I 54:9
Azalea 47:10

< B >
back 16:9
 30:19 31:21
 36:8 39:15, 19
 40:18, 20 41:1,
 2, 4 46:16 55:3,
 9 59:16 63:10
 72:15 75:3
 82:16 83:10
 87:8
backyard 39:18
 48:8 75:17
 86:19
bad 17:6
 69:18 83:1
bait 25:15
 43:21 56:1
ball 58:10
Baltimore
 42:11 69:16
bands 69:10
Baptist 88:1
barge 23:3
 26:6, 7
barges 20:1
 26:7
based 5:4
 18:19 21:4
 46:20
basic 45:11
basically 46:4
 75:2
basin 11:1
Bassich 25:3
 26:18 27:19, 21
 29:6
B-A-S-S-I-C-H
 28:1
Battersee 75:13
bay 14:4 51:10
 56:20
Bayshore 38:21
beach 16:18
 66:13 71:16, 17

beautiful 47:2
 69:5 82:7
beeping 66:16
beginning
 19:10 25:20
 37:15 70:19
 82:11 86:9
begun 53:12
behalf 13:12
 15:6 27:5 52:3
 55:20 67:13, 14
 80:9 82:5
beings 80:16
believe 32:19
 40:6
Ben 35:11
beneficial
 15:14, 15
benefit 35:6
Berlin 22:10
 25:6 43:5
 44:14 47:10
 60:19 75:14
 84:15
Bernie 84:14
Bessman 55:7
best 57:21
 58:5 90:3
Bethany 66:13
better 37:4
beyond 9:10
 50:9
big 23:6 25:12
 30:17 42:6
 50:16 81:16
 83:20, 21
bigger 17:2
biggest 24:7
 44:16 45:1
Bill 50:21
 51:16 52:7
B-I-L-L 52:7
billboard 58:1,
 6
BING 2:3, 5
 9:18, 20 11:12
 14:20 16:2
 18:5, 9 20:16
 22:4, 11 23:15,
 21 25:1 26:9,

14, 16 27:18
 29:5, 8, 19
 31:17 32:4, 6
 33:20 34:17
 35:10, 13, 19
 36:2, 10, 14
 37:2, 8, 11, 13
 38:9, 16, 19
 40:11, 20 42:18
 43:1, 6 44:9
 46:2, 11 47:5,
 13 48:10, 16
 50:12, 18 51:16,
 21 52:2, 5 53:5,
 20 54:1, 5 55:6,
 12 57:5, 13, 18,
 20 58:2 59:14
 60:1 62:11
 64:6, 11 66:5,
 19 67:2 68:6,
 17 70:1 72:11,
 17 73:11 75:1,
 7, 10 76:11
 77:7, 16 78:1
 79:5, 12 80:2
 81:21 82:9
 84:5, 10 85:17
 86:1, 14, 21
biologist 55:16
biology 55:17
bird 55:18
Bishopville 24:5
bit 16:3 34:6
 40:12 58:17
 70:8 80:14
blades 83:5
Blain 54:15
bleaching 14:3
blessed 85:20
block 68:21
blocked 51:13
blow 74:14, 15
Blunt 24:3
 25:3 26:17, 21
B-L-U-N-T 27:1
Board 3:14
 5:2, 5, 8, 10, 14
 6:4 88:10, 12
boards 11:3
 61:3

board's 88:14,
 17, 19
boat 27:4
 36:18 37:20
 72:1
boaters 40:7
boats 22:20
 30:17 31:3
 51:10 69:12
 71:6 72:1
Boden 66:9
Bodencak
 60:10, 11 72:18
 73:15, 17 75:2
B-O-D-E-N-C-A-K
 60:11 73:17
body 5:8
bond 65:6
bonus 64:21
boo 16:11, 14
bothered 39:6
bought 59:16
 69:3
Bramblewood
 25:5
break 8:14
Bressman 53:7
 54:6 55:10, 14
 57:6
B-R-E-S-S-M-A-N
 55:15
bridge 54:16
brief 37:3
 40:11, 19 80:12
briefly 6:8
 10:13
bring 35:5
 40:21 60:15
 61:5 76:16
 83:3
brought 23:1, 3
 63:3
build 28:8
 40:1 41:16
 56:11 70:18
 86:11
builders 44:20
building 52:9
 64:2

buildings 34:8
 47:18 48:3
 63:16 64:5
built 22:16
 55:5 75:18, 20
bulkhead 8:17
 9:3 10:9, 14, 19,
 21 11:2 42:2, 6
 56:13, 18 83:8
bull 83:21
bunch 72:8, 9
Bunting 48:11,
 14, 15 49:5, 6
 50:13 54:15
B-U-N-T-I-N-G
 49:6
bury 58:15
business 24:13
 29:4 34:13
 47:16 48:8
 50:3, 4 67:10
 81:16 83:21
businesses
 28:21 35:6, 7, 8
 49:20 50:2
 59:17
busy 41:21
Butler 38:11
 41:5, 6, 13
 42:19
B-U-T-L-E-R
 41:14
buy 36:8 50:8
buyers 38:6
buying 28:17
 36:6

 < C >
cables 65:16
 66:1, 6, 8, 11, 14
 81:5
Caggiano 60:8
 62:16 64:15, 16
 66:6, 18, 20
C-A-G-G-I-A-N-O
 64:16
C-A-G-G-L-A-N-O
 64:12
Californian
 80:10

call 13:2 21:6,
 12, 15, 20 34:10
 40:14 56:1
called 39:13
 62:11
calls 27:2
 85:11
Cambridge 84:3
Campus 1:14
capacity 63:20
captain 27:3
capture 29:13
 38:17 41:11
car 69:11
card 38:10
 48:19 60:6, 15
cards 21:3
 41:3
care 33:18
 47:19 48:9
 72:9 81:12
 86:20 88:1
Carolyn 34:1,
 18 35:11, 12, 15
Carozza 18:14
case 4:6 6:14
 45:9 65:10
catastrophes
 23:19
catch 20:7
category 65:20
Catholic 78:12
caught 16:19
cause 24:19
causes 56:19
CBT 68:2
cement 74:11
Center 67:7
CEO 39:11
 85:11
certain 88:7
certainly 52:14
CERTIFICATE
 90:1
certification
 7:21 8:9 9:12,
 16 11:9 44:3, 7
 89:1
certifications

7:14
certify 90:2, 4
certifying 7:15
CFD 51:5
chain 50:8
Chamber 49:8,
 19
champion 63:18
chance 48:4
 52:18 61:1
 80:4 84:11
change 14:14
 15:13 17:20
 24:8, 11 25:16
 26:1 27:11
 30:16 45:11
 46:6 52:15
 70:21 83:16, 18
changed 32:13,
 14 33:9 46:8
 86:12
changes 15:16
 44:4 49:15
 53:11 65:11, 12
Changing
 58:11 64:19
channel 8:15,
 19 11:1 30:18,
 21 51:7, 9, 13
chaos 24:19
Chapter 88:13
charge 46:6
charter 27:4
 41:19
charts 72:6
checklist 43:21
Chief 2:10, 16
 13:10
children 85:3
China 48:6
 74:9
choice 14:1
choose 85:13
chosen 14:2
Christina 57:15
 60:7 62:15, 18
C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A
 62:19
Church 78:12,

<p>13 Circle 60:18 Circuit 88:17 citizens 63:12 City 15:7, 8, 21 16:17 18:2 19:1, 4 20:5 25:11 27:1, 16 28:2 30:2 32:12 33:7 34:4 35:16 36:16, 18 37:18, 20 39:1 42:11 51:4 55:4, 19 57:17 58:8 59:2, 21 60:19 65:2 67:8, 10, 13, 17 68:4 69:18 71:19 72:3 73:1, 18 76:16 77:6 78:2, 10 80:19 82:7, 16, 17 86:5 clam 85:6, 15 clams 13:19 clap 16:11, 14 Clean 7:14 8:8 44:6 75:3 clear 6:9 20:9 clearly 12:9 19:13 63:4 clock 29:18 close 7:10 41:11 58:10 61:19 87:9 closer 36:14 47:13 closes 88:3 closing 6:21 Club 25:8 27:4, 6, 7 36:18 37:21 75:21 clubs 55:19 CO2 79:10, 11 coal 74:8, 9 Coast 24:6 25:6 44:15 45:2 53:13 65:12</p>	<p>coastal 14:4 35:16 56:4 65:18 coastline 47:2 Code 3:19 4:21 61:8, 13 62:3 codes 87:14 colleagues 26:11 collectively 63:14 COLLEGE 1:13 3:3 67:9, 11 78:9 COMAR 3:20 5:1 6:10 88:13 89:9 combat 68:1 come 10:3 13:5, 6 15:2 16:9 18:9 21:13 22:5 25:13 40:1, 16, 20 41:4, 15 47:6 48:16 50:8 51:11 64:18 66:1 67:17 74:10 76:12 77:16 79:8 80:4 81:16, 18 82:2 83:14, 15 84:7, 11 86:2 comes 19:15 23:11 49:15 74:15 78:16 85:14 coming 2:12 20:14 31:3 44:18, 19 47:21 48:17 60:2 65:16, 17 66:1, 7, 9 70:3 74:3 75:15, 16 76:5, 6 80:18 83:21 84:19 87:4 89:18 comment 7:10 21:8 25:18</p>	<p>52:1, 3 62:2 67:1 70:4 88:5 comments 4:11, 14, 16, 17 6:2 7:7, 12 11:11, 14, 20 12:4, 7, 20 13:2, 14, 17 16:13 20:18 23:21 24:20 25:1 26:12 29:11 48:18 52:4 53:15 62:15 78:7 87:5, 17, 18 88:4, 7, 20 Commerce 49:8, 19 commercial 17:5 18:21 19:5, 8, 12, 16 20:6 22:13, 16, 17, 19 23:13 24:10, 13 28:15 29:3 34:8 42:11 47:12, 14, 15, 17 50:3, 9 59:7 61:6, 17, 18 70:11 71:6 76:18 77:2 commission 65:7 commissioner 80:9 Commissioners 13:4, 11 19:3 62:3, 9 committed 11:19 common 84:8 communication 3:15 communities 53:13 82:2 COMMUNITY 1:13 3:3 40:1 53:15 63:6, 12, 13, 17 66:14 67:17 70:16 75:18 76:8, 9 78:15</p>	<p>companies 50:17 company 19:6 20:4 33:1 39:13 42:7 47:19 48:5 49:11, 17 52:13 54:18 63:7 complete 47:3 completely 14:13 43:13 46:17 69:1 complies 7:18 comptroller 5:4 computational 51:5 concern 19:18 34:6 44:16 concerning 19:9 32:21 concerns 9:9 17:9 19:14 24:12 63:3 79:16, 19 conclude 12:20 concluded 89:19 conclusion 3:11 20:14 concrete 8:13 conditions 5:18 Condo 43:9 74:7 84:21 conduct 5:11 7:3, 5 conducted 6:1, 17 conducting 3:17 8:6 confused 64:18 congested 17:14 Congressman 51:17 52:4, 8, 10, 14 53:2 connect 53:19 Connecticut 65:2, 4, 13 81:5 connection 71:9 Connections 20:4 37:1 38:4</p>	<p>consider 77:5 88:4 consideration 4:15 6:1, 2 49:12, 17 considerations 5:18 considered 8:2 74:1 88:21 considering 6:5 64:8 consistently 18:18 consisting 5:3 33:6 constant 71:13 Constituents 20:7 constitution 5:7 construct 5:11 8:12 construction 8:17 14:1 26:6 33:9 34:14 38:7 42:4, 7, 8 52:15 64:4 consult 40:13 consultant 73:2 consultation 5:19 consume 19:20 consuming 63:21 consumption 68:13, 15 contact 87:16 89:12 contacting 20:8 contain 62:6 contaminants 56:21 contamination 14:6 contested 4:6 6:14 continuance 7:8 continue 2:13 16:15 19:14 49:10</p>
--	---	---	--	---

continuing 68:12
contractors 30:8
conversations 52:12
copy 3:8 4:17
cords 58:18
corner 83:5
Corps 7:17 76:20 89:5
correct 72:13 90:5
correspondence 67:7 87:13
cost 42:15 74:3 81:7
Council 15:7
count 30:4 45:20
counties 35:2 81:9
countries 55:1
country 36:8 48:7, 8 54:19
counts 43:15
County 13:4, 11 14:12 15:12, 18 17:10 19:2 27:8, 17 30:19 43:8 49:7, 13 61:9, 11 62:2, 8, 21 80:8, 10, 19 81:15 86:17 88:17
County's 61:17
course 7:5 32:11 34:9
Court 1:20 29:12 55:15 86:6 88:17
courteous 12:1
courtesy 3:15
Courtney 32:8 33:21 34:2
C-O-U-R-T-N-E-Y 34:3
covered 22:12 83:11

covering 18:17
crabs 83:13
cracks 42:20
crane 26:6
cranes 30:5 42:9
CRC 1:21
create 68:4 80:19
created 19:3 80:15
creatin 79:15
creating 33:14 82:5
creation 79:9
creative 68:3
credits 64:21
creosote 83:10
crew 20:1 33:6
crisis 81:7
criteria 73:5
CROPPER 82:14 84:6
C-R-O-P-P-E-R 82:15
culminate 49:9
culture 74:4
current 30:10
currently 31:14 56:5, 16, 18 61:8 64:2 78:8 79:1
cut 37:6

< D >
Dan 38:16
Dana 90:2, 11
dangerous 42:3
Daniel 38:14
D-A-R-R 80:7
Darryl 80:7
dash 7:18
date 87:14
day 39:18 85:11
days 14:15 46:7 54:16 84:21 88:19 89:8

Dc 52:9
deal 73:3
dealing 81:15
debris 26:7, 8
Decatur 78:11
deception 39:12 58:7
decide 48:5
decided 21:9
decision 3:8 6:4 9:12 88:9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21 89:2, 3, 7
decisions 48:21 83:2
deep 23:7 58:15
deepened 19:18
Deer 60:18
default 38:7
definitely 79:2, 3, 20
definition 54:3
degradation 56:14
Delaware 31:7 35:2 64:17 65:15, 18 66:1, 8, 13
delay 7:4 16:14
delayed 15:18
Delmarva 43:9
demands 63:10
demolish 42:12
demolition 26:5 42:8, 11, 13
Denrep 65:15
Department 2:7, 18, 20 4:4 5:6, 13 8:3, 5, 21 9:15 20:11 49:1 87:20 88:3, 6, 9, 21
department's 3:8 7:20 87:15 88:8 89:3, 6
deplorable 49:18
Derrek 60:9 67:3 68:6, 7, 8

D-E-R-R-E-K 68:8
describe 10:13
designed 73:9
desire 33:14 77:9
despite 26:3
destroy 17:7 50:14
destroyed 50:1
destroying 47:20 80:18
destruction 6:7 29:2
detailing 13:14
determine 7:16
determined 6:17
determining 5:14
detrimental 42:15
devastate 29:7
devastated 83:14
developers 19:11
development 61:12
developmental 6:6
devices 3:15
Dezarn 90:2, 11
D-I-A-N 32:10
Dianna 27:20 29:9 32:7, 10
different 32:16, 21 33:13 34:6 56:6 60:21 72:6
difficulty 64:13
dig 56:11
digest 15:16
dilapidated 42:12
dimensions 43:16, 17
direct 62:8 87:15

directly 12:8 89:12
Director 10:6
disappointing 14:8
discharge 7:16
discussing 63:9 64:9
discussion 30:5
discussions 19:10
displace 17:4 23:9
disregard 67:11
distances 44:2
district 18:13, 16 19:3, 7 61:6, 16
disturb 23:9
disturbance 13:21 14:5
disturbances 56:11
disturbing 15:13
ditto 44:16
dive 65:14
Division 2:11, 16 3:1 43:20 88:1
Dixson 60:10 67:4 68:7, 18, 19, 20
D-I-X-S-O-N 68:20
DNR 23:17 52:19
dock 17:7 34:15 54:18 70:21
docks 19:8 28:16 47:16, 18, 21 86:10
doesn't 71:1
doing 25:12, 17 40:9 45:5 55:3 75:6 78:16 81:17
dollar 50:16

<p>dollars 40:9 51:14 domestic 67:16 don 40:17 44:18 49:21 54:21 61:1 66:1 69:18 74:16 86:19 Donalds 51:1 53:6, 8, 21 54:2 D-O-N-A-L-D-S 53:9 Donsella 46:13 47:8 48:11, 12 62:13, 14 door 26:1 70:19 Dorchester 83:9 doubly 19:8 Dover 35:11 36:11 38:10 Dr 34:1, 18 35:11, 12, 15 36:1, 4 53:7 54:6 55:6, 10, 14 57:6 draft 59:3 dramatically 64:3 dredge 5:14 76:21 dredging 30:18, 21 drink 81:2 Drive 1:14 24:5 25:5 34:3, 11, 21 35:17 39:1 42:10 44:13 53:9 69:11 73:1 84:15 driver 42:16 drivers 19:17 driving 17:9 31:15 34:10 drove 41:15 Drum 76:15 Duck 44:13 due 14:17</p>	<p>54:10 dune 54:13 Dunn 60:9 67:3 68:6, 8, 9 D-U-N-N 68:9 duty 7:2 dynamic 25:17 dynamics 51:5 < E > earlier 62:12 68:10 East 51:3 65:11 68:9 Eastern 2:10, 16 80:17, 20 81:14 eat 25:13 eating 16:19 echo 68:10 ecological 6:5 economic 6:5 19:17 35:6 59:1 65:21 67:18 economy 15:21 ecosystem 29:4 efficiency 63:15 effort 62:8 76:5 egress 30:16 Elam 1:20 Elana 28:1 elected 12:14 13:2 14:21 15:1 18:5, 6 20:17 63:12, 18 electric 58:18 63:21 64:3 electrical 63:10, 11 eliminate 44:19 email 49:2, 3 87:17 emailed 87:14 EMF 66:11, 14 empathize 35:4 empty 48:3 encourage 16:9</p>	<p>encouraging 65:1 energy 40:5 63:15 68:12, 15 74:2 75:3 engage 61:2 Engineers 7:17 76:20 enjoying 69:13 ensure 12:12 entails 19:21 entering 17:18 entertainment 68:2 entire 75:18 entities 5:20 entitled 44:6 entrance 17:12 Environment 2:8, 18 5:12 7:21 8:6 20:12 27:14 49:1 56:4 87:20 Environmental 3:19 4:21 32:17, 18 33:10 42:13 56:8 57:9, 10 72:16 73:2, 4 environmentalist s 40:6 Environmentally 69:19 equipment 28:12 eroding 56:20 erosion 9:9 56:14 57:1, 7 especially 65:14, 20 estate 30:14 51:15 59:17 69:3 evaluate 7:13 evening 2:4, 9, 15 3:3 10:5, 7 67:5 86:4 eventually 49:1</p>	<p>everybody 25:10 27:2, 15 32:12 44:20 59:18 64:20 76:6 82:3 everyone's 61:5 78:7 exactly 23:8 34:10 exaggerated 56:9 examine 73:5 example 45:17 52:13 89:10 exchange 53:14 Excuse 37:5 Executive 67:7 exercise 62:6 exhaustingly 57:2 existing 8:12 9:2 11:1 17:4, 19 42:14 51:8 expand 32:3 expect 20:12 expecting 60:20 experience 78:18 85:5 experiencing 74:20 expert 55:21 56:7 exploring 85:4 exposed 81:5 express 19:4 expressed 68:10 expressing 20:8 extend 7:6 71:2 extending 8:14 extension 30:10 extensive 52:12 extractions 20:6 eyesore 28:19 < F > face 39:3 facilitator 2:5 9:18 11:15, 18</p>	<p>12:19 16:5 87:3 facilities 9:7 71:21 facility 3:4 10:10 19:7, 21 20:3, 9 28:8, 19 34:15 72:2 fact 4:8, 15 47:18 50:14 63:18 81:1 factors 18:20 facts 6:12 factual 43:14, 15 fair 7:3 11:20 40:3 69:14 faith 52:11 53:4 fall 30:18 falls 54:11 63:10 familiar 50:20 79:21 families 84:18 85:19 family 50:5 82:16 far 30:6, 11 34:5 44:17 45:12 64:18 farm 47:1 85:6 farms 43:18 fathom 85:7 favor 59:20 favorable 14:15 favorite 57:8 85:8 federal 5:19 11:1 25:19 76:20 79:17 87:21 federally 77:3 feedback 2:12 87:10 feel 48:20 feet 8:15, 17 9:1, 2, 3, 4, 5 10:17, 19, 20</p>
---	--	--	--	---

28:14 71:3
fenders 8:14, 18
fight 47:1
 86:19
file 90:3
filed 88:18
files 90:6
filing 89:7
fill 5:15
film 68:3
final 3:8 88:9,
 14
finances 81:8
find 45:7 51:7
 70:14
fine 46:3 72:2
fines 81:9
finish 35:18
Finished 66:17
finishing 17:7
first 13:1, 3
 16:6 21:20
 22:4 33:15
 37:6 47:6, 11
 54:10 75:5
 81:11
Fish 20:4
 22:14, 15 36:21
 38:4 50:6
 55:16 56:1
 71:5 83:13
 85:15
fisheries 55:2
fisherman
 47:12, 15 50:3
 70:11
Fisherman's
 41:20
fishermen
 28:15 35:5
 40:7 44:20
 69:2, 6
fishing 16:19,
 20 17:5 18:2,
 21 19:5, 16
 20:6 22:17, 19,
 20 24:8 25:13
 27:3 29:3
 36:17 37:19
 44:15 45:2

47:17 50:10
 55:19 59:7
 61:11, 17 75:21
 79:16 85:4
fit 28:13
five 71:11
five-minute
 12:13
fix 71:9
flatlands 81:19
FLAX 84:14,
 15 85:18
F-L-A-X 84:15
fleet 16:20
 17:5, 16 18:3
 19:8 23:14
Fleetwood 73:1
flip 32:20
flounder 13:20
 17:11
flow 56:19
fluid 51:5
Fluke 13:21
flushing 14:5
focused 9:13
 14:18
following 35:3
 81:10
follows 6:18
foot 26:1
 46:21 51:11
 70:19
forcing 83:15
foregoing 90:5
foregoing-
entitled 90:4
foreign 54:19
forever 27:11
 29:7
form 33:11
formal 87:11
forward 10:3
 11:11, 21 13:21
 61:15 62:1
 63:8, 15 87:18
fossil 75:4
found 7:20
 32:13 72:14
foundations
 34:11

four 19:17
 28:11
frame 23:5
freaking 69:16
free 54:21 55:1
FREESE 86:4,
 5, 15
F-R-E-E-S-E
 86:5
fresh 16:19
fricking 69:17
friends 75:21
 76:7
front 12:17
fuels 75:4
full 7:3 12:9
 22:14 29:19
 37:16 42:4
 57:1 84:21
 90:5
full-time 42:12
fun 39:16
functional 56:15
functionality
 57:4
funded 76:19
 77:3
funny 39:16
further 9:9
 79:17 88:14
 90:4
future 20:5
 62:10 68:4

 < G >
game 58:11
gamut 63:5
garbage 39:19,
 20, 21
Gary 24:2
Gateway 30:2
general 27:12
 43:21
generate 33:4
generations
 22:18 69:2
gentleman 31:4
 46:17 62:1
gentlemen 61:7

getting 36:2
 39:2 40:16
 41:21 42:20
 45:5 70:19
 87:5
give 16:6
 29:21 37:16
 40:2 57:12
 70:7 73:13
 81:20 83:17
given 6:11
 15:9 18:15
 33:12
go 2:12 9:21
 21:1, 6, 10
 22:11 24:1
 25:15 27:19
 28:17 29:8
 31:1 33:15, 21
 34:18 35:10
 37:11 38:9
 45:7, 10 48:11,
 18 52:1 54:16
 60:6, 14 63:7
 64:12 65:3
 69:15, 16, 17
 70:5, 15 71:20
 72:15 75:3
 78:13
goes 13:21
 45:20 82:16
going 2:3 6:8,
 9 13:1 14:6
 15:19 16:2, 6,
 12, 14, 18 17:14,
 17, 19 20:19
 21:3, 6, 12, 14,
 15, 20 22:5, 13
 23:2, 3, 13, 17,
 18, 19 24:1, 7,
 14, 18, 19, 20
 25:12, 21 26:3,
 4, 8, 9, 12, 17
 27:11, 18 28:9,
 13, 14, 16, 19, 21
 29:1, 8, 12, 17
 30:5, 6, 7, 9, 15,
 16 31:1, 2, 3, 5,
 8, 12, 19, 20
 32:7, 15 33:20

34:17 36:5
 37:3, 4 38:9
 40:11, 14, 15, 17,
 20, 21 41:4
 42:1, 2, 6, 9, 20
 43:1, 16 44:19
 45:6, 7, 14, 19,
 21 46:1, 5, 11
 48:10, 12 50:14,
 18, 20 51:7, 11
 52:16 53:5, 12
 54:17, 21 58:15,
 19 59:5, 6, 7, 8,
 9, 10, 15, 18
 62:12 63:7
 64:11 69:7, 8
 70:11, 14, 16, 17,
 20 71:1, 4, 5, 7,
 8 74:11 77:9,
 14 78:9, 15
 79:7 80:13
 81:3, 10, 12
 82:12 83:12, 14
 84:6 85:7 87:8
Golf 32:11
 34:9
Good 2:4, 9, 15
 10:4, 8, 13
 34:20 35:6
 45:4 52:11
 53:3 54:6
 64:21 67:5
 82:21 86:4
government
 25:19 49:12
 64:20 76:20
 79:2, 17 84:9
governor 5:3
graduated
 78:11 85:1
granddaughter
 85:14
grant 5:10
 16:2
granted 5:17
great 41:6
 57:20
greater 58:20
greatly 77:2

green 40:4
74:1 78:20
grew 78:2, 11,
12, 14
grid 63:11
grids 53:19
ground 34:11
45:21 74:11
grounds 13:20
17:7
Grove 86:5
grow 26:1, 3
85:19
growing 42:14
grown 82:4
Grybowski
39:5, 11
Guard 54:14, 15
guess 34:5
49:3 70:18
74:8
guided 6:4
guys 10:4, 7, 12
11:3 51:4 58:5
65:21 67:20
75:15 78:5
81:19 86:6, 19
Gwin 46:13
47:5, 9, 10, 14
G-W-I-N 47:9

< H >
habitat 57:8
HADDAD
77:19, 20 78:2
79:7, 13
H-A-D-D-A-D
77:21
Hahn 60:10
68:7, 18 70:2, 9
72:12
H-A-H-N 70:10
hammer 34:9
hand 77:12, 16
handed 14:21
21:4
handle 24:14
71:21
hands 20:18
77:13 87:2

happen 24:20
27:15 28:14
46:5, 6 51:7, 11
54:17
happening
44:21 51:15
53:11 62:6
happens 35:18
36:1, 4 38:6
49:20 50:2
harbor 14:4
17:1, 10, 13, 18,
19 18:2 19:4,
20 20:1, 10
22:13, 16, 19
24:8, 9, 12, 16,
17, 18 25:11, 13,
17 27:9, 10, 11,
13, 15 28:6, 7, 8,
9, 13 29:1, 2, 7
30:16 34:7
41:18 42:1
43:17 47:17, 19
50:10 61:11
69:13, 18 76:18,
21 77:6 85:9
Harborside
50:7 69:10
hard 41:20
Harrington
21:21 22:8, 9,
12 23:16
H-A-R-R-I-N-G-
T-O-N 22:9
Harris 27:20
29:9 32:7, 10
52:8, 10 53:2
H-A-R-R-I-S
32:11
Harris's 51:18
hate 86:11
head 25:16
58:21
hear 9:21 10:4,
8, 11, 12 16:13
22:5 29:14
33:21 37:6
38:15 43:1
46:12 49:10
50:19, 20 53:6

55:7 60:5, 14
74:16 82:12
87:10
heard 3:11
12:12 37:15
49:10 50:19
82:21 83:1
hearing 2:6, 18,
19 3:9, 10, 17,
18, 21 4:4, 6, 7,
10, 18 6:1, 12,
13, 14, 17, 19, 21
7:1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9,
10, 12 8:6 9:10,
13, 18, 19, 21
10:7, 9 11:11,
13, 15, 16, 18, 21
12:4, 8, 19 14:9,
17 15:17 16:12
20:12 29:11
43:12 52:16, 18,
20 58:12 60:21
61:1 73:21
77:9 87:3, 9, 12
88:3, 5 89:11,
17, 18, 19
hearings 15:10
61:4
heart 84:16
Heather 2:20
heights 44:2
Hello 43:4
53:8 75:9
76:14 77:19
help 35:7
63:14 79:15
helped 79:4
Henrys 84:14
Hey 68:19
Hi 27:21 46:14
57:16 64:15
84:14
Hickory 70:10
high 30:5, 6
45:6, 7, 19 85:1
high-water
8:15, 19
Highway 35:16
highways 83:6

Hill 49:7
hit 25:10
hitting 24:17
hold 2:13
35:19 36:2
37:2, 13 38:16
52:19
holding 20:12
52:16
holds 67:21
Hollis 26:19
27:19 29:9, 18
30:1 31:18
32:5
H-O-L-L-I-S
30:1
Holy 78:12
home 54:20, 21
76:7 84:20
homeowner
34:13
homeowners
51:9 74:19
homes 28:20
75:2 76:9
honestly 50:11
hope 26:18
68:16
Hopefully 9:20
39:14 41:11
hoping 52:19
horseshoe 20:6
83:13
hotels 59:9
Hotown 51:3
hour 31:2
hours 41:15
house 28:9
42:19 54:10
houses 22:15
24:13 71:6
76:2
H-R-A-W-D-E-
R 18:13
huge 50:8 77:4
Hulslander
57:15 60:8
62:15, 18 64:7
H-U-L-S-L-A-N-

D-E-R 62:19
human 80:16
hundreds 24:16
51:14
husband 54:14
84:19 85:6
Huslander
62:19
hydrogen 78:20
hypocritical
45:10, 13

< I >
identify 3:9
I-E-M-A-N
44:13
ignorant 67:12
illustrated 11:2
imagine 29:2
85:16
immediate
42:17
impact 4:3
14:7 17:2, 11,
18 18:20 19:15
22:21 23:17
27:14 30:17
31:19, 20 32:17
33:11 34:11
35:4 42:13
59:2, 4 62:7
66:18 72:16
77:4 79:14
83:8 84:18
85:2
impacted 77:2
impacts 4:2
8:2 13:14 56:8
57:10, 12 63:6
66:10 73:4
76:17
implemented
5:1
important
11:17 39:2, 3
68:11
impossible 42:3
improving 64:4
inches 8:19

<p>including 5:9, 17 20:1 inclusion 7:7 incorporated 11:7 incorrect 34:15 increase 68:12 increases 16:17 incredibly 17:14 incrementally 33:14 independent 32:18 index 41:2 60:14, 15 indicated 77:8 indicating 5:16 indiscernible 10:8, 21 14:17 23:3, 20 24:10 30:12 31:8, 17 32:21 33:3 35:1, 8 39:12 43:10 45:18 49:19 57:11 59:17 62:7 65:9 66:12 68:10 71:2, 4 73:21 74:8 75:5 78:20 79:10 82:20 83:9 89:8 individuals 12:5 indulge 26:18 industrial 24:9, 14 25:11 61:18 71:19 industrialization 16:21 18:19 19:19 27:10, 13 77:5 industrialized 50:16 industries 75:20 industry 61:17 influx 23:13 information 4:5, 9 6:3 7:7 8:6 46:8 58:13</p>	<p>66:20 87:16, 17 88:6 89:4 informational 2:19 3:18, 21 6:12, 21 7:3, 12 ingress 30:16 inlet 30:18 76:21 inlets 77:4 input 62:5 inside 74:16 insulation 64:5 insulting 14:9 intend 60:13 61:7 intended 61:16 intending 38:5 intent 61:14 interact 56:4 interacting 56:6 interest 18:1 89:16 interested 4:6 6:11 11:13 12:4, 5 89:4, 10, 14 interning 79:1 internship 78:17 79:3 introduce 2:6 10:3 12:15 15:3 Introduction 6:18 investigated 75:6 investments 65:1 involving 78:7 Island 24:5 85:3 issuance 4:19 5:21 issue 5:14 62:10 63:7, 9 73:6 issued 5:2 32:2 issues 8:2 9:10, 13 11:17 88:8</p>	<p>Italian 19:6 47:18 48:4 its 3:14 5:9 56:16 58:21 81:5 88:9 < J > January 8:10 89:2 Jay 32:8 33:21 34:18, 20 76:11, 14 J-A-Y 76:15 Jeanene 47:9 J-E-A-N-E-N-E 47:9 Jeffrey 1:20 39:5, 11 Jennier 26:19 Jennifer 27:19 29:9 30:1 Jeremy 24:3 25:3 26:17, 19, 21 J-E-R-E-M-Y 26:21 Jerry 22:1 25:2, 4 J-E-R-R-Y 25:4 Jersey 74:18 Jimmy 60:10 68:7, 18 70:2, 9 J-I-M-M-Y 70:9 Joanna 53:6 54:5, 8 job 18:14 29:12 42:12 45:4 75:15 79:9 jobs 44:18, 19, 20 80:15, 19 82:5 Joe 60:11 73:12 75:8, 12 J-O-E 75:12 J-O-H-N-S-T 35:15 Johnston 34:1, 18 35:11, 12, 15 36:1, 4</p>	<p>Jonathan 2:7, 9, 15 Joseph 34:2 journey 79:4 Jr 55:7 57:14, 16, 17, 19 judicial 88:16, 18 jump 80:13 jurisdictions 58:16 justify 81:2 < K > Kate 43:3 44:10 46:12, 14 kayaker 55:17 Keep 27:15 36:17 37:19 50:17 77:4 82:7 84:2 keeps 61:14 Keiser 27:1, 2 kept 65:8 Kerrie 48:11, 13 49:5 K-E-R-R-I-E 49:5 Kerry 21:20, 21 22:4, 8 24:11 K-E-R-R-Y 22:9 Kevin 76:1 key 19:17 kid 28:17 kids 85:20 Kimberly 25:3 26:18 27:19, 21 60:9 67:4 68:7, 18, 19 K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y 28:1 68:20 kind 17:18 22:21 25:10 28:3 42:9 63:19, 20 85:19 kinds 63:14 know 14:7, 14 15:14 17:16</p>	<p>20:21 21:2, 8, 10, 16 22:19 23:1, 10, 16 25:11, 21 27:5, 13 28:6 29:11 30:15 31:2, 12 39:14 48:19 51:20 54:17 60:5 61:1 64:3, 20 66:1 67:12, 15 68:1 70:5, 6 71:1, 2, 14, 18, 21 72:8, 9, 12, 14 74:3 77:13 79:10 80:21 81:6, 10, 17 82:11 86:9 known 13:18, 20 19:14 20:3 42:9 57:21 58:6 80:12 knows 17:13 Kool-Aid 81:2 < L > labor 74:7 lack 49:11, 16 lady 66:3 68:11 laid 26:4 42:10 44:7 land 53:17 54:20, 21 74:4, 12 84:3 landscaping 69:6 Lane 46:15 78:4 language 12:2 larger 14:7 46:21 last-minute 14:14 latest 58:12 64:8 launch 25:14 lawyer 57:21 58:6 learn 19:5</p>
--	---	---	---	--

89:11
learned 46:16
learning 85:15
leasing 36:6
leave 3:6
 40:17 69:8
 89:13
leaves 87:7
leaving 4:18
 17:18
Legally 34:2
 36:20 38:2
legislative 44:4
legitimate 63:4
length 4:10
 10:16
letter 87:17
letting 82:2
L-E-U 22:1
Leuters 22:1, 3,
 4 24:2 25:2, 4
 26:13, 15
L-E-U-T-E-R-S
 25:5
LICENSE 1:4
 4:20 5:2, 11, 14,
 17 6:13 9:15
 11:8, 14 12:5
lie 71:13
lied 66:12
life 48:2 56:16
 59:11 78:10
 85:19
lifestyle 85:12
lighting 63:16
likes 39:16
limit 12:13, 14
limited 56:16
 79:5
limits 31:3
Lindsay 38:12
 41:5 43:2, 4
L-I-N-D-S-A-Y
 43:7
line 8:15, 19
 63:1
linear 8:17 9:4
lines 53:18
 58:14, 16

list 48:13 89:4,
 10, 12, 13
listen 12:7
 58:5 76:17
 78:6
listening 26:12
 76:18
literally 68:21
little 14:8, 9
 15:13, 15 16:3
 34:6 40:12
 47:13 56:1
 58:17 64:18
 70:8, 20, 21
 80:14, 21 83:20
live 20:14 22:9
 24:4 28:1 43:5
 49:6, 20 55:15
 68:20 75:13
 78:3 82:15
 85:13
Lived 54:9
 82:3
livelihood 70:12
livelihoods
 80:18 82:7
lives 85:3
living 31:21
 42:13 76:2
load 64:4
loan 38:6
lobby 11:3
local 5:19 27:3
 35:6 39:19
 55:19 67:17
 85:11 86:17
locals 67:18
located 11:3
 15:18 61:19
logistics 63:5
London 65:4
long 23:8
 56:15, 16 57:2,
 6 75:15 79:14
 85:11
longer 14:5
 67:19, 21 70:12
 77:3
long-standing

57:3
long-term 57:10
long-winded
 80:13
Longworth 52:9
look 11:11, 21
 23:7 27:9
 49:20 52:18, 21
 65:3 68:2
looked 23:7
 34:12 57:1
 79:20
looking 34:6
 50:1 53:10
 54:2 59:1 66:7
lose 71:5, 7
losing 39:10, 14
lost 54:10
lot 16:3 22:6,
 12 23:9, 10
 41:2, 3 60:20
 67:14 73:3
 78:17 79:8
love 27:7
 49:21 56:2
lower 55:9
 58:8 59:2
 80:17, 20
Lukes 62:20

 < M >
M-A 57:16
ma'am 53:20
main 14:7
 51:10
maintain 7:4
maintenance
 9:8 10:10 19:7
 23:14 72:2
 73:7 84:3
major 19:8
 78:14
making 6:3
 48:5 76:9
mall 83:7
mammals 59:10
Manager 2:21
 3:2 15:8
Manager's 43:9,

10
manner 11:21
Manor 53:9
March 1:10
 2:4 8:21 11:6
marina 19:3, 7
 36:17 37:20
 41:20 69:13
marine 28:9
 55:16 59:11
 61:6
Market 49:6
marlin 27:4, 5
 36:18 37:21
 59:8 83:7
Maronick 54:7
 55:7 57:14, 16,
 19, 21 58:4
 59:15
M-A-R-O-N-I-C-
K 57:19
Martin 20:4
 36:21 38:4
 50:6 71:9
marvelous 85:5
Marybeth
 18:14 86:17
Maryland 2:7,
 17 3:19 4:21
 5:4, 7 7:15 8:5
 20:11 22:10
 24:5 25:6 27:2
 28:2 30:2 31:8
 32:12 34:4
 35:1, 2, 17 36:8,
 16 37:18 39:1
 41:14 43:5
 44:14 47:10
 49:1 51:4
 53:10 55:16
 57:17 60:19
 62:20 65:14
 66:8 67:8, 10
 68:5, 10 70:10
 73:18 75:14
 76:16 78:3, 4
 79:1 80:10
 82:15 84:15
 86:5 87:20
 88:2

Maryland's 4:7
 6:14 8:3 65:2,
 19
match 33:11
materials 14:2
MATTER 1:3
 81:1 90:4
maximum 8:14,
 18
Maykrantz
 55:8 57:14
 60:1, 2, 7, 16, 17
M-A-Y-K-R-A-
N-T-Z 60:18
Mayor 15:7
McCloskey
 43:3 44:10
 46:12, 14
M-C-C-L-O-S-
K-E-Y 46:15
MCGEAN 15:5
 16:16 50:19
M-C-G-E-A-N
 15:6
MD 1:15
MDE 10:8
 11:6, 7, 10
 27:13 60:21
 72:4 73:5 89:1
MDE's 10:7
 89:11
mean 8:15, 19
 83:17, 19 84:7
means 39:15
meant 39:15
measures 63:15
mechanical
 25:12
Meeks 38:12
 41:5 43:2, 4, 7
M-E-E-K-S
 43:7
meet 43:19
meeting 66:13
 82:20 88:12
meetings 83:16
Melanie 60:10
 72:18 73:11, 12,
 16

<p>M-E-L-A-N-I-E 73:16 member 25:6 36:18 37:20 43:9 44:14 55:18 members 11:19 16:5 21:12 52:12 63:13, 17 membership 85:12 mention 20:2 50:13 64:19 mentioned 17:11 86:8 mentioning 19:12 metal 74:10 mic 37:4, 5, 8 40:12 41:11 47:13 58:2 70:8 86:14 Michael 55:8 57:14 60:1, 7, 17 76:18 M-I-C-H-A-E-L 60:18 microphone 12:9 13:5 39:3 86:2 mics 41:8 middle 41:17 mile 83:20 Miles 3:1 4:18 52:16 71:15, 16 87:16 88:1 89:12 Mill 84:14 million 53:13 65:5, 10 million-dollar 28:20 millions 51:14 mind 45:17 61:14 mine 73:19 minerals 74:6 mines 74:8 minimize 14:2</p>	<p>62:7 minimized 14:1 minnows 56:1 minute 12:13 49:15 52:15 53:1 58:12 86:12 minutes 14:9 misinterpreted 56:9 mispronounce 22:1 26:17 mispronouncing 60:9 mode 3:16 81:7 model 51:5, 6 money 47:2, 3 48:6 65:8 77:3 81:13 Monitor 55:15 monitoring 28:9 monitors 42:19 mono 45:21 monstrosities 50:1 monstrosity 39:17 41:16 months 23:11 78:11 Monument 46:1 58:21 morning 53:10 morphological 51:6 mother 47:15 move 12:21 20:19 23:4 58:10 61:15 62:1 83:20 moved 82:3 84:21 moving 31:5 63:15 multiple 21:16 55:19 56:6 mummichogs 55:21 56:2, 3 mummichog's 57:8</p>	<p>municipalities 63:13 < N > N-A 32:11 NAB-2020 7:17 nail 47:1 name 2:9, 15 12:10 13:7 15:3, 5 18:10, 12 21:3, 6, 14, 15 22:6, 8 25:4, 5 26:18, 20 27:21 29:20 32:9, 10 35:13 37:14 38:12, 14, 17, 19 41:7, 13 43:4, 6 44:11 46:13, 14 47:6, 11 49:4 50:20 51:3, 20 52:6, 7 53:8 54:8, 14 55:12 57:18 60:5, 14, 16 62:11, 16 64:13 67:5 68:19 70:6, 7 72:19 73:13, 16 75:10, 12 76:12, 13, 14 77:17, 18, 20 80:5, 7 82:13, 14 84:12 86:2, 3 90:7 names 18:10 21:16 22:1 59:4 60:4, 12 77:8 80:3 Nancy 44:13 narrow 17:14 National 54:14, 15 natural 40:8 41:17 75:18 nature 74:4 navigation 17:19 navigational 9:7 nearby 21:18 34:9</p>	<p>necessary 4:12 7:9 88:5 necessity 61:19 need 21:1, 6, 9, 14 26:2, 3 31:9 40:16 44:18 47:6 48:18 49:2 55:3, 10 60:5, 6, 14 62:8 63:14, 18 66:19 72:2, 15 76:6, 7 77:5 80:5, 16, 17 82:5, 6 86:6, 15, 17, 19 needs 33:1 63:10 68:15 negative 17:2 18:20 53:15 57:11 negotiate 52:11 53:3 neighboring 14:12 neighbors 31:20 74:18, 19 neither 8:4 12:6 Nelson 2:21 net 79:11 Network 78:18 never 19:12 23:8 59:2 New 65:4 74:18 nice 15:15 Nieman 41:6 43:2 44:10, 11, 12 46:3 night 83:11 NIMBY 39:14, 15 46:16 NIMBY's 39:10, 13 NIPA 32:17 Noah 53:7 54:6 55:6, 14 66:9 N-O-A-H 55:15 noise 31:19</p>	<p>74:21 nonprofit 78:19 Norfolk 71:20 North 35:16 Norwich 36:15 37:18 notice 5:21 notify 3:7 Nottingham 46:15 78:4 November 44:5 number 8:7 22:10 49:18, 19 54:9 numbers 72:5, 6 < O > O.C 25:15 objected 18:18 objections 20:8 objective 78:16 objectives 53:16 obvious 65:12 obviously 60:21 63:6 65:2 72:9 79:9 OC 69:4 Ocean 15:7, 8, 21 16:17 17:1 18:2, 19, 21 19:4, 19 20:5 25:7, 8, 11 27:1, 16 28:2 30:2 32:12 33:7 34:3 35:16 36:15, 18 37:18, 20 39:1 41:16 46:15 49:8 51:4 54:11 55:4, 19 57:17 58:8 59:1, 20 60:19 65:2 67:8, 10, 13, 17 68:4 69:18 71:19 72:3 73:1, 17 76:16 77:1, 6 78:2, 4, 9 80:19 82:7, 16, 17 84:7</p>
---	---	--	---	--

<p>86:5 Oceanic 78:18 offensive 12:2 offering 53:13 office 7:13 20:8 51:18 52:9 87:9 officer 2:19 6:17, 19 7:1, 2, 11 13:10 official 4:13 7:11 15:1 18:6 officials 6:20 12:14 13:2 14:21 18:6 20:17 53:15 63:12, 18 86:18 offload 20:7 23:2 offloading 20:5 28:11 offshore 18:18 19:10, 15 44:2 45:13 47:1 73:9 78:19 79:18 83:19 oh 26:2 33:21 40:4 48:13 50:2 53:21 70:15 77:16 84:3 Okay 2:3 9:20 10:1, 4, 8 13:9 14:20 20:18 21:11 22:4, 5, 11 23:16, 21 24:1, 4, 7 25:1 26:16 27:18 32:6 33:20 34:17 35:10, 20 36:10 37:2, 16 38:9, 11, 17, 19 39:6 40:20 41:3, 6, 12 44:9 45:16 46:11 47:5 48:10, 11, 12, 13 49:3 50:18 51:16 52:2 53:5 54:1, 5, 6 55:6, 14</p>	<p>57:13, 20 60:2 62:11, 15 64:11, 15 67:2 68:17 70:1 72:17 73:11 75:7 76:11 77:7, 13, 16 80:2 82:9 84:10 86:1, 21 87:2 old 64:21 78:11 O-N 35:16 Once 11:9 32:2 33:18 ones 23:7 onload 23:2 onloading 28:11 ONM 19:21 20:3 onshore 19:13 open 59:8 77:4, 10 87:12 operate 61:7 operates 70:13 operation 9:7 10:10 33:3, 6, 9 72:2 73:7, 8 operations 19:7 opinion 43:11 56:7 opinions 39:19 opponent 8:4 opportunities 79:3 opportunity 4:5 6:11 11:19 15:9 33:12 52:20 63:2 77:11 82:10 87:1 88:15 oppose 46:10, 17, 19 59:19 69:1, 20 opposed 13:12 28:5 81:10 opposing 6:13 oral 4:15 order 4:10 6:16 7:4 21:1, 3, 16 80:18</p>	<p>orderly 11:16, 21 orders 46:6 organization 12:10 45:2, 10 organized 11:20 original 9:4 10:17, 19 13:13 33:3, 10, 14 originally 13:15 32:16 45:18 65:4 Orstead 65:13 outside 30:3 31:4 67:16 89:14 overall 14:7 overlooking 16:19 owned 19:6 48:4 84:20 Owner 27:3 34:13 43:8 50:3 67:10 owners 38:5 ownership 30:13 31:11 38:7 owning 76:2 < P > p.m 2:4 40:21 77:10 87:12 pack 70:12 71:6 87:11 page 87:16 panelists 12:6 paper 53:12 parents 28:17 Park 35:17 71:20 parked 43:18 Parkway 68:9 part 4:13 18:21 19:13 51:10 82:19 participants 6:18 7:5 particular 45:9</p>	<p>particularly 56:3 parties 11:13 parts 28:10 party 5:10 89:10 passed 62:3 passing 52:14 Pat 18:12 22:12 24:11 29:10 86:16 Paul 77:20 Paula 50:21 53:6, 8 P-A-U-L-A 53:9 pay 30:19 81:9 payments 53:14 pays 38:6 79:14 peer 51:8 pending 11:7 people 16:3, 9 21:4, 19 22:20 25:13 31:21 39:2, 4, 17, 21 41:1, 3, 4 45:5 48:17 54:2 58:8 59:15, 18 60:4, 20 61:2 63:3 69:11, 12 72:9, 10 77:2 80:15 81:1 82:2, 6 people's 16:13 80:18 percent 69:21 perfect 52:13 performance 64:2 period 7:6, 10 12:20 47:17 56:15, 16 62:2 88:5 permit 7:17 30:10 32:2 33:15, 16 36:20 38:2 40:2 47:3 70:20, 21 72:7 73:5 83:18</p>	<p>permits 30:13 31:11 73:3 Permitting 10:6 43:12 44:1 perpendicular 43:16 person 6:11 12:21 13:3 21:17, 18, 20 24:1 36:10 40:13 50:5 78:14 88:15 89:6, 15 personally 46:10 49:21 persons 4:6 89:4, 10 perspective 57:9 67:16 perspectives 12:1 67:14 petition 88:16, 18 phase 70:19 PHILIPS 76:14 Phillips 76:12, 14 P-H-I-L-L-I-P-S 76:15 phone 53:18 phonetic 39:8 66:9 pick 25:15 pickup 31:13 picture 31:13 piece 30:13 69:3 pier 8:12, 13 9:1, 2 10:9, 14, 15, 16, 20 11:2, 5 30:4, 9, 11 31:6, 13, 14 32:1, 2 42:14 47:3 70:18 71:8 piers 30:6 31:15 42:12 83:10</p>
--	---	--	---	--

pile 34:10
42:10, 16 45:21
piling 14:1
17:10 30:4, 9
43:15
pilings 34:11
42:5
Pines 25:8
46:15 49:8
78:4
Piney 24:5
Pitt 43:5
Pittsville 82:15
PJM 63:11
place 3:16
20:7 30:8
31:14 44:4
49:21 50:1
61:11 70:12
81:11 85:18
places 81:4, 9,
14
plan 29:6
43:19 49:14
52:19, 21 57:3
86:12
planned 10:10
18:1
planning 42:7, 8
plans 28:3
32:14, 15 33:2,
10 42:5 43:11,
14 45:18 52:15
57:2
platforms 20:5
playing 69:10
pleasant 27:9
please 3:6, 15
4:12, 17 10:3
12:1, 7 15:3
16:15 18:9
21:15 22:7
35:14 37:7
38:13, 20 40:17
41:1 43:6 47:7
49:4 66:20
67:11 68:1
72:20 73:14
76:13 78:1
80:6 82:12, 13

84:13 86:3
87:14, 18 89:11,
14
plenty 16:8
plunder 40:8
plundering
41:17
plus 26:6
Pocomoke
70:10
point 14:7
16:3, 20, 21
18:3 27:1, 16
60:18 65:5
70:10 76:15
86:12, 15
points 49:8
poison 83:12
poles 45:21
83:11
policy 6:4
pollutants 56:21
pollution 31:19
47:21
poor 56:18
Port 44:15
45:2 65:4, 6, 13,
20
ports 65:1, 3
pose 33:13
positive 57:10
76:3 79:8
posted 87:14
poster 11:3
26:10
postmarked
87:13
potential 64:9
power 53:19
63:11 64:1
67:21 68:2, 3
powerful 58:18
practical 42:14
precious 29:4
74:6
prepare 7:11
49:16
prepared 28:2

present 4:1
6:12 10:1, 2
88:11
presentation
3:12 6:16, 19
presented 72:5
presenter 10:2
preserve 6:6
61:16
preserving 19:5
President 24:6
27:4 49:7
pretend 40:4
pretty 23:7, 8
39:1 42:3
65:12
prevent 6:7
previous 28:3
price 80:16
Princess 80:10
prior 15:16
58:14
pristine 76:10
private 65:1
probably 23:3
49:10
problem 34:13
40:12
problems 24:7
30:21
procedure 3:17
4:7 6:15
procedures
81:11
proceed 6:10
proceedings
87:8 90:3
process 3:14
43:12 44:1, 7
45:3 56:20
processes 44:6
65:10
produce 74:10
produced 90:6
products 64:19
profane 12:2
professional
11:15, 20 73:1
87:5
professor 55:17

Program 2:21
8:1
programs 43:20
Project 3:2
4:1 6:19 8:4,
20 9:6 10:2
14:10, 13 15:20
16:16 17:4, 12
19:13 28:5
35:3, 18 36:4
45:15 53:16
55:4 56:8, 12,
13 57:10 59:19
61:2 63:20
64:10 65:5
68:11, 14 69:1
73:4, 8 76:8
78:8, 16 79:8, 9,
13, 15 87:15
88:11 89:16
projects 58:14
63:15, 20
promised 19:11
promises 65:8
pronouncing
64:13
pronunciate
73:16
properties
30:12 69:4
property 5:8
28:20 29:3
36:6, 21 38:3
43:8 51:12
59:6 69:4
81:19
proponent 8:4
proposal 15:21
proposed 4:1, 2
6:19 8:20 9:11
10:2, 9, 14
13:15 14:13
33:4 43:14
53:16 88:11
proposes 33:1
proposing 8:21
10:16, 18 17:1,
17 69:15
proprietary 5:9
props 23:6

prospective
46:21
protect 9:8
56:13 57:6
61:11, 16 76:6,
7
protected 65:16
protecting 19:5
57:7
Protection 2:21
protects 65:19
proud 82:17
provide 3:8
4:17 9:6, 7
11:13, 20 12:9
13:2 16:4
20:18 21:2
28:15 38:12
48:18 58:13
62:14 63:20
77:9, 18 80:6
87:17
provided 3:13
80:3
provides 4:4
50:5
providing 7:6
11:19 29:15
proximately
61:19
proximity 41:11
public 2:6, 19
3:14, 17, 21 5:3,
21 6:2, 4, 20, 21
7:3, 11 8:6
9:18 10:8
11:10, 13, 14, 16,
19 12:13 14:9,
17 16:6 20:12,
19 21:13 24:17
43:12 52:4, 20
62:2 66:21
88:11, 12, 20
publication 89:8
publicly 52:10
purpose 3:21
9:6 11:12 19:4
61:14
purposes 51:6

<p>pursuant 3:18 push 82:2 83:3 pushed 79:17 pushing 39:19 put 32:1 42:1, 17 45:3 47:2, 18 48:13 59:4 61:11 66:9, 21 69:17 74:7, 12 83:12 84:8</p> <p>< Q > QR 87:14 quality 4:3 7:14, 18 8:3, 9 9:12, 16 11:9 17:3 18:1 44:3, 7 64:4 question 25:9 26:5 31:10 33:13 35:17 36:19 38:1 46:20 51:4 questions 12:7 19:20 26:10 30:3 63:4 72:8 quick 15:13 quiet 41:1 69:4 quite 20:8 quote 33:3</p> <p>< R > raise 55:9 58:16, 18 77:12 ramp 24:17 25:15 ran 51:6 raping 54:3 reach 68:1 reaction 50:8 read 4:12, 16 6:8 18:15 32:16 37:12, 21 39:8 53:11 57:2 60:4 61:9, 13 66:3 81:4 reading 65:20 real 30:14 51:14 59:17</p>	<p>69:3 realize 28:6 realized 26:2 really 45:8 56:2 72:10 73:19 75:3 realtor 69:3 85:10 realtors 76:1 reason 46:4 48:20 49:14 57:9 76:19 reasoning 45:11 receive 4:14 48:21 received 6:2 8:1, 9, 20 88:4, 20 recess 37:3 40:11, 14, 19, 21 recognize 13:1 Recognizing 19:2</p> <p>recommendation 5:5 88:10 recommended 5:18 reconsider 52:19 record 4:13, 17 7:8, 11 27:3 62:4 87:12, 19 88:3 recorded 4:18 recording 12:8 recreation 6:6 recreational 19:12, 16 23:12 24:16 29:3 61:18 Reddish 50:21 51:17, 19 52:1, 3, 7 R-E-D-D-I-S-H 52:8 red-headed 82:18 redo 28:4</p>	<p>reduce 9:1 10:16, 18 32:2 63:14 64:3 reduced 9:4 10:14, 20 13:16, 17 reduction 9:1, 5 10:15, 17, 20 11:1, 5 13:15 reductions 11:7 reef 42:14 reefs 79:15 regard 43:13 44:3, 5 regarding 8:2 regardless 32:14 Region 2:10, 16 49:17 regulate 7:4 regulations 3:19 6:9 73:6 regulatory 8:1 Rehoboth 54:16 reimbursed 34:14 related 9:9 11:14 12:4 relatively 56:10 57:11 release 56:21 released 64:21 relevant 88:7 remain 9:3, 13 77:10 87:12 remaining 9:2 12:16 60:4, 13 remarks 17:21 remediate 56:13 remember 12:8 61:10 83:10 remind 12:15 41:8 48:17 67:20 remove 8:11 rendering 88:21 renovated 10:21 11:5 renovation 10:19</p>	<p>repair 28:10 30:10 repeat 53:2 repeating 24:21 replace 20:3 replacement 8:17 9:3 report 3:9 5:4, 16 66:10 88:9 Reported 1:20 Reporter 1:20 29:12 reports 57:2 represent 13:11 35:1 representation 63:13 representative 18:13 representing 12:11 13:3, 7 15:4 18:7, 8, 11, 16 51:18 52:6, 8 represents 35:2 request 7:8, 21 8:9, 11 9:16 88:6 89:1, 2, 7 requested 6:1 requesting 11:6 requests 7:13 8:16 require 33:18 62:1 requirement 62:4 requirements 43:19 requires 7:15 32:18 rescheduling 14:16 52:17 research 18:19 56:3 78:17 researching 56:5 reset 29:18 reside 32:11 62:20 residences 51:9</p>	<p>resident 36:16 37:19 43:8 62:21 residential 24:13 31:20 34:8 61:12 residentially 69:19 residents 30:19 49:12 50:8 resolved 88:8 resource 41:17 resources 40:8 respect 16:15 respectful 87:5 respond 12:6 responded 62:12 responding 26:10 responsibility 7:13 restarted 43:13 restaurants 25:14 28:21 31:16 59:9 69:13 76:1 85:8 restrict 17:12 restroom 62:13 restudy 72:15 result 19:18 76:3 resulted 43:11 retail 47:16 retired 25:19 revelation 19:19 revenues 29:1, 4 review 3:14 9:14 65:10 66:20 88:4, 15, 16, 18 revised 43:11 52:18, 21 revision 8:20 rezoned 76:19 Rhoda 66:9 Richard 41:5 43:2 44:10, 11, 12</p>
---	--	---	--	---

<p>R-I-C-H-A-R-D 44:12 rid 45:5 ride 75:16 ridiculous 82:19 right 3:1 5:10 10:13 13:5 21:19 22:8, 19 26:4, 11, 21 29:10 30:8 34:8 37:3 40:18, 21 45:20 50:20 51:8 58:4 59:20 61:21 62:4, 6, 21 77:10, 15, 17 81:1 82:6 85:3, 7 86:19 87:3, 11 rights 55:2 righty 70:9 riparian 38:5 rises 54:11 road 24:12, 14, 15 27:1 30:17 32:11 34:9 36:15 37:18 47:10 51:4 62:20 69:9 70:10 75:13 76:16 80:10 roads 20:2 28:7 R-O-B-E 82:14 Robert 82:14 ROBINSON 38:14, 15, 18, 21 R-O-B-I-N-S-O- N 38:18, 21 robust 57:3 role 11:15, 18 16:4 roll 81:13 Ron 21:21 24:2, 4 75:21 R-O-N-I-C-K 57:17 room 22:20 28:8 39:4 62:5</p>	<p>64:20 72:3 75:20 83:3 Rowe 60:10 70:2 72:18, 21 R-O-W-E 72:21 R-T 82:15 rule 7:8 rules 83:18 run 11:15 41:19 47:19 running 63:5 84:2 Ryan 27:4 50:21 51:2 86:4 R-Y-A-N 86:4 Ryan's 27:5 < S > safe 76:9 Salisbury 1:15 34:21 35:1, 17 49:14 53:10 55:16, 17 62:20 68:9 78:8 88:2 Salomon 1:21 sand 54:13 satisfaction 88:8 Saturday 69:9 save 18:2 21:18 68:4 Savior 78:12 saw 13:14 32:16 72:10 saying 41:12 45:6 46:4 81:2 says 46:13 51:17 66:6 73:6 S-C 18:12 Schanno 60:11 73:12 75:8, 9, 12 S-C-H-A-N-N-O 75:13 school 85:1 SCHRAWDER 18:7, 12 Science 2:11, 17 66:10 87:21</p>	<p>scope 9:10 13:16 14:14 screen 12:17 seafood 16:19 28:16, 17 47:16 seated 41:2 seats 16:8 20:20 second 25:18 35:19 36:3 38:16 secondary 20:2 seconds 12:16 23:15 29:5 40:15 42:18 46:2 50:12 57:5 59:14 64:6 66:5 72:11 75:1 79:12 81:21 84:5 85:17 secretary 5:13, 16 6:3 Section 3:20 26:10 44:5 sector 65:1 sediment 51:6, 12 56:19 see 15:13 21:13 25:14 27:9 33:12 37:4 49:21 57:9 69:6 76:3 77:16 83:19 87:14 seeing 20:18 42:5 65:11 77:13 81:16 84:9 87:2 seek 65:7 seen 46:7 54:12 58:16 74:14 83:6, 19 Seifert 34:19 35:11 36:11, 12, 15 37:10, 12, 17 S-E-I-F-E-R-T 36:12 37:17</p>	<p>sell 38:5 48:5 50:6, 7 54:18 55:2 69:3 76:1 selling 76:2 senator 18:14, 16 send 67:7 sending 36:7 senior 78:8 sense 27:14 45:15 84:8 sensitive 41:9 sent 89:4 September 8:8 39:18 seriously 11:18 20:13 serve 57:4 Service 1:21 33:6 43:18 73:9 set 61:4 settlement 30:11 seven 33:4 Shady 86:5 shaking 81:1 shape 33:11 share 4:9 32:15 sheets 3:5, 6, 7, 13 43:19 shellfish 17:12 ships 24:19 25:12 28:11 Shoemaker 53:9 shops 56:1 shore 19:17 58:9 59:2 80:17, 20 81:14 shoreline 9:8 56:14, 20 57:7 81:5 short 33:8 56:10 shorter 17:21 short-lived 57:11 short-term</p>	<p>56:10 shouldn 54:17 show 42:5 59:20 72:6 shown 33:2 49:17 side 31:21 sign 21:1 48:18 49:2 51:19 60:15 89:13 signed 3:6 14:21 16:4 21:4 37:1 38:4 significant 17:9 65:21 significantly 17:21 sign-in 70:5 signing 48:21 silent 3:16 silly 49:14 Similar 15:12 Simmons 3:1 4:18 87:16 88:1 simple 35:17 46:20 simply 16:16 28:7 29:6 sin 41:18 single 58:10 sir 15:2 37:5 60:17 77:15 80:4 82:11 86:2 sit 20:20 54:16 site 13:18 14:10 sitting 46:8, 9 48:3, 8 49:14 55:3 70:3 six 71:11 size 10:15 17:16 24:19 26:8 32:2 46:1 skeptical 46:5 skeptics 39:19 Skip 32:7</p>
--	--	--	---	--

<p>33:21 56:6 slave 74:7 slip 41:21 Slipper 50:21 51:2, 3 S-L-I-P-P-E-R 51:3 slow 14:5 small 24:12 28:6, 7 35:7 67:10 83:21 Smith 21:21 24:2, 4 S-M-I-T-H 24:4 Snow 49:7 soil 56:21 sold 48:6 50:16 sole 5:8 solicit 4:5 somebody 23:20 29:15 81:20 83:18 Somerset 18:17 80:9 81:15 Sommerset 80:8 son 85:1 sons 85:5 Sorry 15:2 22:1 53:18 57:18 60:8, 11 64:12 sort 41:10 51:5, 6 south 51:8, 9, 15 Southern 20:4 37:1 38:4 space 17:8 23:10 26:2 63:5 span 48:2 56:17 Sparrow's 16:20, 21 18:3 27:16 spawning 13:19 Speak 12:8 15:9 21:1, 2, 17 27:5 35:20 39:7 41:3, 15 60:3, 13 63:2</p>	<p>67:13 68:11 77:11, 12 80:4 82:10 87:1, 2 SPEAKER 10:11 18:8 25:2 29:11 37:5 44:9 66:17 68:6 75:7 77:15 speakers 12:1 speaking 30:3 31:4 special 19:3 44:18 50:15 specific 8:1 56:12 specifically 10:15 spell 12:10 13:7 15:3 18:10 21:14 22:6 26:20 29:20 32:9 35:13 37:14 38:12 41:7 43:6 47:7 49:4 52:6 55:10, 12 57:18 60:16 62:16 70:7 72:19 73:13 75:10 76:13 77:18 80:5 82:13 84:12 86:3 spelled 34:21 44:12 84:15 Spencer 60:10 70:2 72:18, 21 S-P-E-N-C-E-R 72:21 spend 39:18 spent 65:5 Splitville 41:20 spoke 84:16 89:15 spoken 84:18 sport 27:3 Sportfishing 24:6 25:7</p>	<p>Sportsman's 82:21 spread 53:13 spring 13:20 sprung 52:21 square 46:21 Sr 54:7 St 62:20 stand 23:20 39:6 58:21 59:20 69:20 86:18 standards 7:19 8:3 standing 39:2 standpoint 67:18 start 2:6, 14 12:14 37:13 40:17 51:12 58:4 71:10, 17 started 2:3 45:4 71:15 73:21 starting 38:7 state 5:2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 19 6:5 8:7 9:11, 15, 16 13:6 18:10, 13, 16 21:14 22:6 26:20 27:12 29:20 31:9 32:8 35:13 38:12, 19 41:7 52:5 55:12 56:19 62:16 64:16 65:6, 15, 19 66:12 70:6 72:19 73:13 75:10 76:12 77:17 79:2 80:5 82:13 84:12 stated 52:10 statement 3:10 4:13, 15 18:15 28:3 32:12 33:11 36:19 37:6, 10, 12, 21 73:19</p>	<p>statements 3:11 6:13, 20, 21 25:9 32:17 67:12 states 33:1 state's 7:18 statutory 4:19 stay 14:6 25:21 26:4 40:14 41:10 76:9 86:20 step 21:5 59:13 stepchild 82:18 Stephen 78:11 stepped 82:17 Steward 2:7, 9, 10, 15 87:9, 10 stick 30:7 84:6 stirred 51:13 stirring 30:20 Stoneybrook 34:21 stop 35:20 54:3 57:9 66:8 71:8 stopped 75:5 stopping 76:8 stops 41:10 storm 54:11 story 61:3 Street 22:10 43:5 49:6 54:9, 13 57:17 67:7, 8 68:21 73:17 78:3 83:9 88:1 stress 4:8 85:8 strongly 28:5 structure 4:9 57:4 structures 8:12 10:21 34:12 56:4, 12 struggle 80:14 struggling 17:5 student 67:9 studies 72:16 studios 68:2 study 32:18 59:2, 4</p>	<p>stuff 22:14 23:6 27:15 82:19 84:8 87:20 stupid 40:5 subjected 36:7 sublease 65:13 submerged 13:19 14:2 submit 5:16 submitted 5:5 8:8 11:5 13:13 subscribed 90:7 subsection 3:18 subtitle 5:1 7:20 suckers 55:5 sudden 19:19 sufficient 5:21 suggest 42:17 Suite 88:1 summary 8:5 summer 13:20 17:11 23:11 69:9 SUMNER 10:4, 5, 12 Sunday 69:9 Sunset 36:17 37:20 supplement 68:14 supplemental 7:6 supplies 25:16 supply 20:2 support 16:10 42:1 45:12, 14, 15 46:18 57:12 68:12, 15 82:6, 7 supported 72:10 supporting 6:13 supposed 71:13 supposedly 58:14 sure 15:10 21:7 23:18, 19 24:20 29:14, 16 34:10 35:19</p>
---	--	--	---	--

37:8 40:16
 70:4 76:9 86:7,
 14, 16, 18 89:13
surf 16:18
surfers 40:7
survival 17:6
Susan 34:19
 35:11 36:11, 12
 37:17
sustainable
 28:15
switch 43:21
system 63:11,
 12

< T >

table 21:1
 48:18 70:5
tackle 25:15
take 11:18
 20:13 22:15
 23:10 33:18
 37:3 40:11
 54:13 69:7, 18
 82:3 83:5
 85:11, 18
Talbert 83:9
talk 22:13
 26:11 29:16
 39:2 58:13
 73:21 80:15
 86:10, 17
talking 46:18
 74:2, 5, 16, 18,
 19 86:14
tattooed 56:2
tax 40:9 64:21
taxpayers 31:1
 65:7
teacher 47:11
techniques 64:7
technologies
 78:20
technology
 40:13 64:8
tell 45:9 58:6
 70:13 71:12
telling 45:5
 54:3 66:14

tells 59:5
tempting 16:10
ten 14:15 46:7
 84:21 86:8
Terance 15:5
T-E-R-A-N-C-E
 15:6
term 79:14
terms 4:10
 5:18 68:15
terrorize 67:17
Terry 50:14, 19
testimony
 12:13, 17, 21
 16:4 20:19
 29:16 77:9
thank 3:3 9:17
 10:6 11:10, 11,
 12 14:12, 18, 20
 15:10 16:16
 18:3, 5 20:15,
 16 23:21 24:1,
 21 25:1 26:13,
 16 27:17, 18
 29:7, 8 32:5, 6
 33:19, 20 34:16,
 17 35:8, 10
 36:9, 10 38:8, 9
 40:9 42:21
 43:1 44:7, 9
 46:9, 11 47:4, 5
 48:9, 10 50:17,
 18 51:16 53:4,
 5 54:4, 5 55:5,
 6 57:13, 20
 59:21 62:10, 11,
 18 64:8, 10, 11
 67:2 68:5, 16,
 17 69:21 70:1
 72:17 73:10, 11
 75:6, 7, 14
 76:10, 11 77:6,
 7, 19 78:5
 79:21 80:2
 82:8, 9 84:9, 10
 85:20 86:1, 6,
 16, 20, 21 87:4,
 11 89:17, 18
thankless 75:15
Thanks 58:5

THEREOF
 90:7
thing 20:21
 22:21 42:4
 45:1 48:19
 55:3 58:7
 59:19 61:3
 70:14, 21 73:20
 84:17 87:8
things 16:11
 17:20 23:1
 25:20 26:1, 2
 33:8 34:7, 14
 40:2 45:5 46:6
 55:1 56:6 63:8
 69:17 74:3, 10
 78:20 79:8
 86:7
think 2:13
 14:7 17:2
 29:10 35:5, 7
 36:14 39:21
 40:5 44:12, 18
 48:1 54:21
 58:2 60:20
 63:2 67:15
 69:20 73:20
 74:2 81:17
 83:4, 12
thinks 6:3
 39:16, 20 59:21
third 5:10
Thirty 42:18
 46:2 50:12
 57:5 59:14
 64:6 66:5
 72:11 75:1
 79:12 81:21
 84:5 85:17
Thornton 60:9
 64:13 67:3, 5, 6
T-H-O-R-N-T-
O-N 67:6
thought 33:18
 66:19
thoughts 78:7
threat 15:20
 16:17 67:16
threatening
 19:20

three 11:2
 22:18 41:15
 54:16 72:10
 78:10 85:5
thrilled 79:2
thrilling 39:1
throat 17:14
throttle 63:19
throw 81:13
Thursday 89:2
TIDAL 1:3
 2:10, 16 3:1
 4:1, 20 5:2, 9,
 11 6:7 8:7
 9:11, 15 11:8,
 14 12:5 43:13,
 20 54:10
tie 26:7 72:1
tiger 22:14
tight 37:3
tilt 70:7
timber 8:14, 18
time 7:6 12:13,
 14, 20 14:5, 19
 15:16 16:7, 14
 21:12, 19 23:5
 29:19 35:9, 20
 37:16 40:10
 41:9, 20 49:3,
 16 53:21 56:11,
 15, 16 57:6
 58:10 62:13
 64:17 70:4
 71:12 73:3
 76:4, 5 77:7
 78:6 79:5 80:1
 82:12, 18 83:19
 84:21 89:17
timer 12:17
timers 21:13
times 83:17
 86:8
tired 81:15, 16
Title 4:20
today 33:12
 46:20 64:20
 74:20 79:18
Todd 11:12

told 23:8
 45:18 54:15
 58:19 81:11
Tom 54:7 55:7
 57:13, 16
tonight 3:4, 7
 16:12 20:17
 46:16 51:18
 52:13 60:20
 77:20 78:5
 84:16 87:4
tonight's 2:5,
 19 3:10 9:18
Tood 10:5
tools 31:5, 6
tooth 47:1
top 42:16
total 49:11, 16
totally 46:19
touch 58:2
tourism 16:18
 50:11, 13 59:6
tourists 50:7
town 15:7, 8
 46:9 83:21
towns 49:13
toxic 74:15, 16
traffic 20:1
 23:11 24:14
Trail 34:3
trans 53:17
transcribed
 90:2
Transcriber
 90:12

TRANSCRIBER'
S 90:1
transcript 90:5
Transcription
 1:21
transfer 28:11
 33:6
transits 33:5
Transmission
 53:18
transport 20:1
travel 24:18
treasurer 5:3

treasures 75:19
 tried 83:8
 triggered 14:16
 trips 33:5, 19
 Trotter 29:10
 truck 31:13
 trucks 20:2
 true 67:21 90:5
 truly 78:6
 trust 63:6
 truth 45:3
 try 16:5 41:10
 47:13 58:2, 11
 61:2 62:6 79:6
 80:12 81:2
 trying 20:20
 23:12, 14 32:20
 41:16 45:1
 73:15 83:18
 86:11
 Tuesday 87:12
 turbine 28:10
 31:6 44:2
 turbines 31:5
 45:19, 20 53:19
 58:20 73:20
 turn 3:15 18:3
 39:3 41:9
 45:14 81:8
 83:5, 8 87:8
 turning 11:1
 turns 58:3
 twice 46:1
 twitter 39:8
 two 12:12 20:5
 23:1 25:9 33:1,
 17 49:8, 19
 69:4 71:5 72:1,
 6
 type 40:2
 60:21
 types 44:18
 61:4
 typically 61:4
 T-Y-R 54:8
 Tyrawski 53:6
 54:6, 8
 < U >

U.S 7:16 8:21
 10:5, 9, 15, 18
 11:6 15:20
 17:1, 6, 17 19:6
 31:4 33:17
 36:5, 20 38:2, 5
 39:11, 12 45:4,
 12 52:11 53:3,
 12, 16 66:12
 70:13 81:4
 87:15
 ultimately 63:9
 unable 12:19
 unacceptable
 29:6
 unaffected
 14:13
 unambiguous
 20:9
 unanimously
 13:12
 unanswered
 63:4
 unbelievable
 47:21
 unclear 66:10
 undecided 21:8
 undercut 56:19
 understand
 11:17 12:2
 16:10 31:3
 36:21 74:1
 86:8, 18
 understanding
 38:3
 understood 39:7
 UNIDENTIFIE
 D 10:11 18:8
 37:5 66:17
 77:15
 unique 8:2
 University
 55:17 78:8
 unloaded 22:14
 unnecessary 7:4
 unsure 89:9
 Upperco 41:14
 upset 80:21
 usable 74:12
 usage 63:19, 21

use 3:3, 14
 42:10 51:9
 uses 61:18
 utilities 32:1
 < V >
 vacation 84:20
 value 59:1
 65:21
 values 6:6
 28:20 29:4
 51:12 59:6
 vastly 32:14, 16
 33:13
 vegetation
 13:19
 vehicles 31:12
 Veronica 85:14
 vessel 19:21
 28:10 36:17
 37:19 41:19
 42:2
 vessels 20:2
 23:6, 12 28:10
 33:2, 4, 6, 7, 17
 43:17
 vibration 42:19
 vice 27:4
 vicinity 42:17
 videos 74:14
 view 25:14
 27:11
 Villa 78:3
 Vine 22:10
 Virginia 35:3
 65:3 74:19
 voice 62:9
 vote 72:4, 12
 voted 45:12
 < W >
 wait 60:3
 waived 44:4
 walk 16:9
 walked 11:4
 Walker 32:8
 34:1, 18, 20
 W-A-L-K-E-R
 34:21
 walls 42:20

want 4:8 10:6
 14:14 16:10, 13
 17:7 20:9, 21
 21:2, 8, 9 27:11
 29:2, 13 30:15
 31:2, 12 37:2,
 13 39:17 40:1,
 2, 4, 12, 14, 15
 41:2, 3, 8 48:17,
 21 49:21 50:17
 51:21 60:3, 13
 61:9, 13 62:5,
 14 64:19 67:15
 70:4 71:21
 75:14, 17 76:16
 81:18, 19 83:2
 86:7
 wanted 38:15
 61:5 64:18
 79:21 85:2
 wants 17:6
 warning 65:14
 Washington
 46:1 52:9
 58:20, 21
 waste 47:3
 watcher 55:18
 Water 2:11, 17
 4:3 7:13, 14, 18
 8:3, 8, 9 9:12,
 16 11:9 14:3
 17:2 18:1 23:9
 30:7 34:7 36:5
 42:15 44:3, 6, 7
 56:12 59:10, 11
 82:16 83:13
 87:21
 waterfront
 61:20 71:7
 watermen
 19:12 85:7
 waters 74:12
 watersheds
 65:17
 Waterways
 2:21 43:20
 47:20 55:2
 57:1
 wave 8:14
 54:10, 12

way 25:21
 26:4 33:11
 34:13 39:11
 46:10 50:17
 61:21 63:8
 67:19 69:19
 71:4 76:10
 77:1 83:6
 ways 69:19
 website 89:11
 WEBSTER
 80:7, 8 82:1
 W-E-B-S-T-E-R
 80:8
 weekend 41:21
 weighted 4:15
 welcome 3:2
 75:17
 well 4:3 15:11
 17:8 22:21
 34:9 39:7 50:9
 51:19 64:18
 65:19 67:10
 78:18 79:18
 80:13
 went 53:18
 We're 2:3
 16:12, 18 20:19
 22:15 24:1
 26:9, 12 27:12,
 18 29:8 31:13
 32:6 34:17
 36:2 37:3, 4
 40:7, 11, 12, 16,
 17, 20 41:4
 42:5 43:1
 45:14 46:9, 11
 48:10 50:18, 20
 52:19 53:5
 54:21 59:1
 63:21 64:11
 65:11 70:16, 17
 71:7, 15 74:2, 6
 75:6 81:3, 15,
 17 84:8 86:9
 Wes 50:13
 west 14:10
 18:2 19:4
 25:10, 15 36:15
 37:18 49:6

60:19 68:20
 69:4 71:19
 72:3 77:5
Weston 13:4, 9
W-E-S-T-O-N
 13:9
WETLAND
 1:4 11:14 12:5
 43:13, 20 56:14
Wetlands 2:11,
 16, 21 3:1 4:1,
 20 5:2, 9, 12, 15
 6:7 8:7 9:11,
 15 11:8 43:20
 56:4, 20 57:7
 65:16 87:21
 88:10
We've 35:3
 46:7 52:18
 66:3 71:16
 80:16 81:18, 19
 82:21 83:1
whirlies 42:9
White 57:17
 59:8 83:7
wholeheartedly
 34:4
Wicomico 18:17
wide 9:3 28:14
wife 47:12, 14
willing 81:20
Wilson 46:13
 48:11, 12 62:13,
 14
Wilsson 47:8
Wind 8:21
 10:5, 15, 18
 11:6 15:20
 17:1, 6, 17
 18:18 19:6, 11,
 15 28:10 31:4,
 5, 6 33:17 36:5,
 20 38:2, 6
 39:11 43:18
 44:1 45:4, 12
 47:1 52:11
 53:3, 12 58:20
 66:12 70:13
 73:20 74:2

78:19 81:4
 87:15
Winding 34:3
windmill 82:19
 84:4
windmills 48:1
 71:14, 15, 16
 84:2 86:9
window 83:5
winds 83:19
Wind's 10:9
 53:16
wiped 83:7
wish 3:10
 16:20
wishes 20:13
withstanding
 88:16
WITNESS 90:7
wondering 46:9
Wood 44:13
Worcester 13:4,
 11 18:17 19:2
 27:8, 16 30:19
 43:8 49:7 61:9,
 10, 17 62:2, 8,
 21 80:19 86:17
 88:17
work 8:15, 19
 10:9, 14, 19
 11:2 15:19
 19:11 20:14
 23:5 30:9 31:7
 37:4 55:20
 64:2 70:15, 16
 71:1
worked 63:11
working 37:8
 41:10
Works 3:14
 5:3 88:11
world 48:7
worse 39:21
WOR-WIC
 1:13 3:3 67:9
WQC 89:2, 8
wrap 12:16
 32:4 66:19
writing 66:21

Written 4:14,
 16 7:6 13:13
 18:15 33:9, 10
 55:11 61:21
wrong 82:1

 < Y >
Y-A-N 51:3
yard 39:15
 46:16 59:16
Yeah 22:12
 29:19 46:3
 53:21
year 33:19
 58:17 78:9
years 19:3
 25:20 47:10
 48:2 53:14
 58:15 61:10
 69:2 71:11
 73:2 82:4, 16
 84:20 85:10
Y-L 80:8
Young 13:4, 5,
 9 14:12 67:11
 68:11
Y-O-U-N-G
 13:10
youngest 85:1
youth 67:13
 85:19

 < Z >
Zachery 60:9
 64:13 67:2, 3, 5
Z-A-C-H-E-R-Y
 67:6
Zone 65:18
zoning 61:8
 62:3