

# SB-47

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Taylor of Rhode Island introduced the following bill;

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## A BILL

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*Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "OWMA: Offshore Wind Mitigation Act".

### **SECTION 2. Findings**

(1) The goal to achieve an ambitious federal renewable energy standard has led to the granting of 28 wind lease areas in federal waters which equates to approximately 55 million acres of ocean area development, and

(2) According to NPR, about 20% of the average yearly clamming catch comes from the areas now

slated to be wind farms, and

(3) According to the Guardian: in the north-eastern US and mid-Atlantic, where America's first commercial wind farms will be built, lease areas overlap with highly productive fisheries that add billions of dollars to coastal regional economies, and

(4) Dozens of boats have reported trawls getting damaged by concrete structures covering undersea power cables, costing tens of thousands of dollars in equipment and lost fishing time.

### **SECTION 3. Definitions**

(a) Offshore Wind Farm: the generation of electricity through wind farms in bodies of water, specifically federally regulated waters accessed by fishermen

(b) NOAA: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a federal scientific and regulatory agency within the United States Department of Commerce that forecasts weather, monitors oceanic and atmospheric conditions, charts the seas, conducts deep sea exploration, and manages fishing and protection of marine mammals and endangered species in the U.S.

(c) Fisheries: the enterprise of raising or harvesting fish and other aquatic life; or more commonly, the site where such enterprise occurs.

(d) Funds: an impact fee assessed on the developer's offshore wind farm project; on a per acre basis

### **SECTION 4. Offshore Wind Mitigation Research**

The OWMA will implement an impact fee on any federally leased offshore wind farm project. The one-time fee stipulates that for every acre of the wind farm project, the developers must contribute one dollar (\$1.00) to fund research and studies conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration focused on the impact of wind farms on the U.S. fishing industry. Seeing as fisheries sectors will become leased federal land, the OWMA will create a fund that benefits the fishing industry of coastal states while supporting the federal renewable energy objectives.

### **SECTION 5. Punishments**

If the private developers do not follow the regulations set by OWMA, the developers are subject to Section 7201 of the Internal Revenue Code concerning federal tax evasion.

#### **SECTION 6. Enforcement**

NOAA's Accounting Operations Division will be tasked with enforcing the \$1.00 impact fee upon project approval. It will be granted full authority to manage the funds for fishing industry research through the National Marine Fisheries Services division of NOAA.

#### **SECTION 7. Enactment**

The Offshore Wind Mitigation Act will go into effect upon passage. As for the required payments by offshore developers, only projects leased after the enactment of the bill will be assessed.