

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2017-0184

Sponsored by: Councilmember Simon	A Resolution supporting the application of Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. to the Ohio Power Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, the Icebreaker Wind Farm will be the first freshwater offshore wind project in North America and only the second offshore wind project in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Wind is a 20.7 megawatt, six turbine project that will be located eight to ten miles off the shore of Cleveland, Ohio, and;

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to develop more domestic clean energy to protect our environment and create new industries in the region, and;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes region has the technical potential to provide over 700 gigawatts of offshore wind generation, including in the waters off of Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker will be a small demonstration project that will allow us to advance the development of this huge clean energy resource in Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes, and;

WHEREAS, the Icebreaker Wind project alone will create over five hundred (500) jobs and provide \$168 million in local economic impact over the project life, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker is committed to hiring workers from the local labor force and sourcing materials from the region, to the greatest extent possible, and;

WHEREAS, the vast offshore wind industry potential in Northeast Ohio would provide thousands of jobs and significantly boost the local economies, including the economy of Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, the region's air quality is among the worst in the nation, which air pollution leads to increases in respiratory disease including asthma, heart attacks, and premature death. Clean energy will help improve the County's air quality, and;

WHEREAS, Ohio depends on fossil fuels for over eighty (80) percent of its electric energy mix while clean renewable energy accounts for less than three (3) percent of Ohio's electric energy mix. Developing an offshore wind industry will provide greater fuel diversity, which can serve as an insurance policy against price volatility and/or shortages, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Windpower has received strong community support from residents, businesses and local governments, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Windpower has secured \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to date, with a commitment to provide an additional \$40 million in funding if certain milestones are met, and;

WHEREAS, the Lake Erie Energy Development Corporation (LEEDCo) has attracted a private investor in Fred. Olsen Renewables, a leader in the European wind industry, to own, construct, and operate the project, and;

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the power output from Icebreaker Wind has been purchased by American Municipal Power (AMP), Cleveland Public Power (CPP), and Cuyahoga County, and;

WHEREAS, Icebreaker Windpower Inc. submitted an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to the Ohio Power Siting Board on February 1, 2017, and;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Power Siting Board will be considering this Application in the coming months, and;

WHEREAS, this Application shows that Icebreaker Wind will have minimal adverse impact on fish, wildlife, or the Lake Erie shore viewshed.

WHEREAS, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual, daily operation of a County entity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby supports the application of Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. to the Ohio Power Siting Board for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

SECTION 2. That Cuyahoga County urges the Ohio Power Siting Board to act favorably and expeditiously on said application.

