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Save LBI Encouraged by Collapse of Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Projects, Presses on with Litigation to Assure Permanent Victory

BEACH HAVEN, NEW JERSEY, February 11, 2025 – Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI), the non-partisan watchdog group formed in 2021 to protect the ocean and New Jersey Shore communities from the destructive impacts of offshore wind, announced today that, while it is gratified by the collapse of the controversial Atlantic Shores South projects, the organization will remain vigilant and continue the fight to ensure that these projects and the Atlantic Shores North project are canceled and never return.

The controversial plan to erect 200 wind turbines as close as 8.7 miles off the coast of southern Long Beach Island (LBI), Brigantine, and Atlantic City, began unraveling on January 30 when Shell New Energies, which owns 50 percent of Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, announced that it would write off a billion-dollar loss and step away from the projects. The announcement came just 17 days after Save LBI filed a comprehensive federal lawsuit against the projects alleging noncompliance with five laws. Four days later, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) refused to award significant additional rate subsidies that Atlantic Shores had requested to fund the projects.

"This is a major victory for shore values, communities, and common sense," said Bob Stern, president and co-founder of Save LBI in a <u>letter</u> thanking supporters. "But there is also unfinished business here to ensure that these projects, or similar ones, never reappear, and that the flawed Federal and State processes and impact assessment methods that carried such a costly and damaging project this far are fundamentally changed."

Stern identified several areas in which Save LBI will continue its fight to permanently end Atlantic Shores South and Atlantic Shores North, including the passage of **federal legislation to remove investment tax credits and other incentives** for offshore wind under the Inflation

Reduction Act and the **cancellation of the two wind lease areas**. "We have written to U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary [Douglas] Burgum suggesting that, and will be filing a formal petition asking for cancellation," Stern said. "Our recent federal lawsuit provides ample justification for such cancellation."

Save LBI will also seek to **overturn prior project approvals** through its ongoing litigation — which if granted, would set a precedent for other cases — and **continue its longstanding campaign to protect the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale** by filing a petition with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to <u>establish a safe migration</u> <u>corridor along the East Coast</u>. That petition, which asks NOAA to designate the corridor as critical habitat, will demonstrate that the Atlantic Shores projects and other offshore wind projects in these sensitive areas would seriously impede or block whale migration."We will ask that all wind projects be excluded from that critical habitat corridor," Stern said.

Finally, Stern welcomed the new Administration's review of the leasing and permitting practices for all offshore wind projects and urged everyone involved with Atlantic Shores South to "reflect on how a project with virtually no benefit, high cost, and significant environmental damage proceeded so far". Our work on this over the last few years showed that the entire process of site selection and project review was fundamentally flawed.

"We will continue our efforts to inform the public, the media, and our elected representatives as to the true costs and impacts of these projects, suggest improvements for the leasing, environmental review, and financing practices used, and offer constructive energy supply options to keep the lights on," Stern concluded.

About Save LBI

Save Long Beach Island (Save LBI) is an organization of citizens and businesses on and off the Island working together to protect the ocean and Long Beach Island and neighboring communities from the destructive impact of the Atlantic Shores projects and potentially other offshore wind projects. As a not-for-profit, non-partisan entity, we do not endorse any political candidates but vigorously pursue policies and actions that protect the Island and New Jersey communities. The organization is led by Beach Haven resident Bob Stern, a Ph.D. engineer with experience in environmental law who previously managed the U.S. Department of Energy's office overseeing environment protection related to energy programs and projects. Save LBI is fighting to stop the ill-conceived Atlantic Shores projects. Please visit SaveLBI.org to join the fight.

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