

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
10000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Secretary Hegseth and Secretary Burgum:

On December 22, 2025, the Department of the Interior announced it is pausing the leases for all large-scale offshore wind projects in the United States, including Vineyard Wind 1, Revolution Wind, Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW), Sunrise Wind, and Empire Wind 1, due to national security risks. Secretary Burgum cited risks identified by the Department of Defense (DOD) “in recently completed classified reports.” Each of these projects has undergone lengthy federal reviews, including coordination with DOD to address any national security concerns before receiving permits.

In the Record of Decision for the Revolution Wind project, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management noted that “the DOD concluded that site-specific stipulations, designed in consultation with the DOD, could mitigate the impact of [the] site,” and that, when addressed through coordination with DOD, “impacts would be negligible and avoidable.”¹

Additionally, a Federal Interagency Working Group, which includes the DOD, Department of Energy, Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concluded that “the development and use of radar interference mitigation techniques, and collaboration both among federal agencies and between the federal government and the wind industry have enabled federal radar agencies to continue to perform their missions without significant impacts.”²

The pause affects projects that, together, would generate enough electricity to power almost 2.7 million homes. Several projects are already generating electricity for the grid. ISO New England, the region’s grid operator, stated that the pause will increase costs and risks to reliability, and that “delays of new generating resources also will adversely affect New England’s economy and industrial growth, including potential future data centers.”³

¹ U.S. Dep’t of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt., *Revolution Wind Farm and Revolution Wind Export Cable Project Construction and Operation Plans*, at B-16 (August 21, 2023).

² U.S. Dep’t of Energy, *Report to Congress, Update on the Efforts of the Wind Turbine Radar Interference Mitigation Working Group*, at ii (February 2024).

³ ISO New England, *Statement on Department of the Interior offshore wind announcement* (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://isonewswire.com/2025/12/22/iso-new-england-statement-on-department-of-the-interior-offshore-wind-announcement>.

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Dominion Energy, the regional utility and developer of CVOW, stated that “stopping CVOW for any length of time will threaten grid reliability for some of the nation’s most important war fighting, AI, and civilian assets. It will also lead to energy inflation and threaten thousands of jobs.”⁴

Following the announcement, Secretary Burgum posted on social media about the decision, criticizing the projects for unrelated reasons, calling offshore wind a “scam” and raising other unsupported concerns about wildlife and energy prices.

As Ranking Members of the Committees of jurisdiction with significant concerns about the impacts of this pause, we request a classified briefing on this latest action by the administration to stop offshore wind development. The briefing should include, at minimum, an explanation of the new national security “risks” information on the anticipated length of the ongoing pause. Please provide us with three dates and times for a briefing by Thursday, January 22, 2026.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House
Natural Resources Committee



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Energy and Natural
Resources



Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services
Committee



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and
Commerce

⁴ Press Release, Dominion Energy, *Dominion Energy releases statement in response to U.S. Department of Interior action on Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind* (Dec. 22, 2025), <https://news.dominionenergy.com/press-releases/press-releases/2025/Dominion-Energy-releases-statement-in-response-to-U-S--Department-of-Interior-action-on-Coastal-Virginia-Offshore-Wind/default.aspx>.