



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

March 29, 2010

Mr. Larry Pearce
Executive Director, Governor's Wind Energy Coalition
2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 102-22
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Pearce:

I am writing to notify you that, in light of the circumstance that has recently arisen, I have decided to terminate the Commonwealth of Virginia's participation in the Governor's Wind Energy Coalition. I recently received a copy of the letter addressed to Senator Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Senator McConnell, and Representative Boehner, and copied to several additional members of Congress, from the Governor's Wind Energy Coalition dated March 16, 2010. Under my predecessor, Governor Tim Kaine, Virginia was a member of the Coalition.

I share the concern of the Coalition that our dependence on imported energy sources poses unacceptable and unnecessary risks to the nation's energy, economic and national security. That is why I support an "all of the above" approach to solving our energy crisis. My administration will continue to support the traditional sources of energy like coal, natural gas, oil and nuclear, that provides thousands of jobs to Virginians and help keep our electricity costs fairly low. I will also expand investments in renewable energy sources so that the future of Virginia remains bright. Renewable energy sources, like wind, solar and biomass, will certainly play an integral role in our energy future, but we must take a comprehensive approach.

I strongly support the research and development of offshore wind energy in Virginia. Virginia is a prime location for the development of wind energy because of high wind speeds in relatively shallow water, a skilled maritime workforce with transferrable training, onshore locations that provide access to high capacity transmission, industrial infrastructure to support related manufacturing, and support from local communities. The Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium has played a leading role providing the research and development required for the development and commercialization of offshore wind. I also support streamlining the permitting process for energy development projects, including offshore wind. I am anxious to move forward with offshore wind production, considering there are currently two unsolicited bids to locate projects off the Virginia coast.

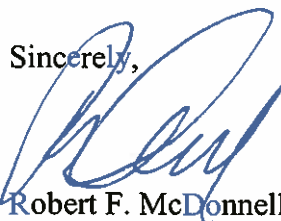
I do not, however, agree with the recommendation of the Coalition to adopt a renewable electricity standard. Renewable energy must be an important and growing part of Virginia's energy plan. Setting benchmarks for achieving levels of efficiency is an important part of reaching our ultimate goal of a more energy independent and environmentally friendly Virginia.

I am concerned, however, that a mandated standard could increase energy prices for Virginia consumers.

Because I am not in complete agreement with the recommendations made by this letter, I am extremely disappointed that it was sent without my approval, even though it included my name, as the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, implying that Virginia endorsed the contents of the letter.

As a result, I request that Virginia be removed from the membership of the Coalition, effective immediately, and that my name and the Commonwealth's affiliation be removed from further publications by the organization and the organization's website.

I will continue to work with other Governor's to advance the development of offshore wind through my participation in the Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium, established by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

Sincerely,

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

Cc:

Governor Chester J. Culver, Chair, Governor's Wind Energy Coalition
Governor Donald L. Carcieri, Vice Chair, Governor's Wind Energy Coalition
Governor Mike Beebe, Arkansas
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California
Governor Bill Ritter, Colorado
Governor Jack Markell, Delaware
Governor Charlie Crist, Florida
Governor Linda Lingle, Hawaii
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Governor John Hoeven, North Dakota
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Governor Edward Rendell, Pennsylvania
Governor Mike Rounds, South Dakota
Governor Christine Gregoire, Washington
Governor Joe Manchin, III, West Virginia
Governor Jim Doyle, Wisconsin