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## **Elected Officials to Protect America - California Statement**

In the wake of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, we must act on the scale and speed that science demands to address the escalating climate emergency, protect public health, and end systemic environmental racism caused by fossil fuel pollution.

By meeting our electricity needs through clean, pollution-free offshore wind energy, California can deliver air quality improvements to frontline communities. About 78 percent of our gas power plants reside in communities identified by CalEPA as having the state's highest burden of poverty and cumulative environmental health burdens. Typically these are Black and Brown communities that suffer from fossil fuel production and factories that spew toxins, which have been strategically located in their communities because they were redlined decades ago. To ensure the economic benefits of offshore wind are shared equitably, frontline communities must be included in the manufacturing, development, and generation of offshore wind power. Thousands of shovel-ready union jobs will be created, as well as port revitalization, which alone can add up to 6,000 local, full-time equivalent jobs per port right away, according to a report from Brightline Defense. By tapping offshore wind we could create more than 17,500 good-paying jobs by 2045 in key regions that lack high-skilled job opportunities, while improving air quality in these frontline communities.

We need to develop offshore wind for California to create jobs, lead America's clean energy transition, and protect our state from the worst impacts of the climate emergency.