

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	17-MISC-01
Project Title:	California Offshore Renewable Energy
TN #:	243116
Document Title:	Ceres Comments - Major Business Support for Ambitious California Offshore Wind Deployment Targets
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Ceres
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	5/17/2022 4:00:58 PM
Docketed Date:	5/17/2022

*Comment Received From: Ceres
Submitted On: 5/17/2022
Docket Number: 17-MISC-01*

**Major Business Support for Ambitious California Offshore Wind
Deployment Targets**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



May 17, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Major Business Support for Ambitious California Offshore Wind Deployment Targets

On behalf of Ceres, I write in support of ambitious state offshore wind deployment targets through the AB 525 implementation process. **We specifically urge the Energy Commission to set bold deployment targets of 5 GW by 2030 and 20 GW by 2045, with minimum requirements of at least 3 GW by 2030 and 10 GW by 2045.** Ambitious targets will initiate the state's opportunity to capture the economic and clean air benefits of this industry, an especially valuable boost as California grapples with the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more than 30 years, Ceres has leveraged the power of influential investors, Fortune 500 companies, and thought leaders to tackle a wide range of sustainability challenges. As a part of our work, we run the [BICEP \(Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy\) Network](#) — a coalition of more than 80 major businesses across the United States, many of whom have substantial operations or are headquartered in California.

Climate change poses a significant risk to companies' long-term economic success, impacts the health and livelihood of the communities in which they operate and live, and disrupts the value chains on which they rely. Businesses are already feeling the effects of climate change across the West — from increased heat waves and extreme wildfires to drought and hazardous air quality. Because of these risks, they are making significant commitments and investments to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and invest in clean energy resources.

Offshore wind is an important clean energy resource and the development of offshore wind in California can create another pathway for companies to meet their sustainability goals. This is why 13 major businesses and institutions, including **Salesforce, Dignity Health, Gap Inc, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co, and Workday**, strongly supported AB 525's passage (see support letter below and [linked here](#)). A number of these signatories have also reached out individually to the Commission to share their support for ambitious targets.

We urge you to set bold deployment targets that meet the urgency required at this moment. Targets of 5 GW by 2030 and 20 GW by 2045 will initiate California's opportunity to capture the economic benefits of the offshore wind industry, while ensuring that the state meets its renewable energy and climate goals.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Helfrich
Senior Manager, State Policy
Ceres



BURTON



CALIFORNIA
HEALTH CARE
CLIMATE ALLIANCE



Dignity Health.



ECOS

Gap Inc.



September 10, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capital First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Major Company Support for AB 525 (Chiu) Offshore Wind Energy Strategy

Dear Governor Newsom and members of the Newsom Administration,

As major businesses and employers in California, **we write to express support for AB 525**, which would direct the state to prepare a strategic plan for harnessing offshore wind power, jumpstarting California's currently non-existent offshore wind industry. This bill initiates the state's opportunity to capture the economic and clean air benefits of this industry, an especially valuable boost as California grapples with the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

California is not on track to meet its target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 40% by 2030. Ambitious renewable energy procurement [played a key role](#) in helping the state reach its 2020 goal early, and meeting California's 100% clean energy goals under SB 100 will be necessary to accelerate emission reductions. As the recent [SB 100 Joint Agency Report](#) demonstrates, the state will need to bring on a wide range of new energy resources to reach 100% by 2045, including at least 10 GW of offshore wind power.

Climate change poses a significant risk to our long-term economic success, impacts the health and livelihood of the communities in which we operate and live, and disrupts the value chains on which we rely. We are already feeling the effects of climate change across the West — from increased heat waves and extreme wildfires, to drought and hazardous air quality. Because of these risks, we are making significant commitments and investments to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and invest in clean energy resources.ⁱ Clean energy investments are an economic opportunity, saving major energy buyers in the U.S. billions of dollars a year while reducing emissions.ⁱⁱ

Offshore wind is an important clean energy resource and the development of offshore wind in California can create another pathway for us to meet our sustainability goals. Renewable energy resources such as wind energy are attractive to large energy users because of their ability to provide emissions-free energy at low, stable prices without exposure to the volatility of fossil fuel prices. Offshore wind continues to decline in price and would be a viable, cost effective clean energy resource for companies seeking local clean energy solutions.ⁱⁱⁱ

Offshore wind presents a significant economic opportunity for California. Especially as California seeks to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, building 10 GW of offshore wind could create a total of 14,890 construction jobs and bring in approximately \$20 billion into the state's economy by 2050.^{iv} Furthermore, offshore wind development creates an opportunity to train a new generation of workers to perform highly skilled jobs in manufacturing, maintenance, construction, and operations. These benefits can and should be equitably targeted on low-income and communities of color.

We urge you to sign AB 525 into law. This bill would initiate California's opportunity to capture the economic benefits of the offshore wind industry, while ensuring that the state meets its renewable energy and climate goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

**Avocado Green Brands
Burton
California Health Care Climate Alliance
Dignity Health
DSM North America
ECOS
Gap, Inc.
Numi Organic Tea
Salesforce
Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.
Unilever United States
VF Corporation
Workday**

CC: Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Newsom

ⁱ Nearly early half of all Fortune 500 companies have set goals to reduce GHG emissions, procure renewable energy, and invest in energy efficiency, see: <https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-3>; Health systems in the U.S. have committed to increasing climate resilience and reducing GHGs, see: <https://noharm-uscanada.org/healthcareclimatechallenge>; and Colleges and universities are making bold commitments to address climate change and resilience, integrating these into their curriculum, research, and campus operations, see: <https://secondnature.org/signatory-handbook/climate-leadership-network-map/>.

ⁱⁱ In 2017, major energy buyers in the US saved nearly \$3.7 billion a year from investments in clean energy, see: <https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/power-forward-3>

ⁱⁱⁱ "2019 Cost of Wind Energy Review," National Renewable Energy Laboratory, December 2020, <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/78471.pdf>

^{iv} "Floating Offshore Wind in California: Gross Potential for Jobs and Economic Impacts from Two Future Scenarios," National Renewable Energy Laboratory, April 2016, <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65352.pdf>