**Talking points for state & federal officials: Wind project off LBI**

* Hello (name), **I am calling regarding the proposed wind project off the coast of Long Beach Island, NJ**
* While I am a proponent of sensible approaches to wind energy, **as an LBI (homeowner/business owner/visitor), I am opposed to the current location and size of this project.**

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* With turbines that are 853 feet tall, **this project will be the most visible modern wind project in the world.**
* **It will have a severe impact on our local economy** including:
	+ - * + Losses in tourism revenue (estimated at $300 million per year).
				+ Property value losses (ranging from $1 million for ocean fronts to $189k for ocean view homes), with corresponding implications for other property owners.
				+ Vacation rental losses (55% of previous renters of oceanfront & ocean view properties indicated they would not return if turbines were visible, even if offered an incentive).
				+ Job losses in multiple areas, including hotels, restaurants and related services.
* **The current location for this project also has several other important environmental drawbacks:**
	+ There has been **no comprehensive assessment of the impact of this project on our environment, as well as commercial and recreational fishing and boating safety.**
	+ The current lease area is in the migration path of the **North Atlantic Right Whale** -- a highly endangered species with only 360 of these beautiful mammals in existence today.
	+ It is also in the path of the **Piping Plover**, a threatened species of bird that nests in the Holgate Wildlife Refuge.
* **A far superior location for this project exists today:** **it’s the Hudson South Call Area, which is 30 to 57 miles off our shore, where turbines will not be visible.**
	+ - * Hudson South offers the potential for significantly more wind energy than the current lease area.
			* Hudson South has already been screened by the BOEM for conflicts with fishing, marine mammals and navigation, for development cost, and it was already approved for wind projects.
* **It’s not too late. Please help us get Hudson South into consideration for this project now.**
	+ - * We have already sent a detailed proposal to BOEM.
			* But we need your help.
			* Please call BOEM today, before it’s too late, and demand they make this change.
			* Our economy and our environment are depending on you.
			* Will you please help us?
			* Thank you.