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**Groups Tell Snyder: Take the First Step Toward
Offshore Wind**
*Petition Effort Urges Governor to Start Developing
Regulatory Framework For Great Lakes Offshore
Wind Projects*

LANSING – Michigan clean energy advocates today announced the launch of a month-long petition drive to urge Governor Rick Snyder to move forward with developing a regulatory framework for offshore wind in Michigan.

“Tapping into Michigan’s extensive offshore wind resources will create good-paying jobs, drive economic development, and help Michigan become more energy independent,” said **Nicholas Occhipinti** of **West Michigan Environmental Action Council**. “The first step toward creating offshore wind energy development is creating the proper framework for this sector to locate in Michigan.”

It’s been more than a year since the bipartisan [Great Lakes Offshore Wind Council](#) (GLOW), developed recommendations for a regulatory framework. Yet Governor Snyder has yet to act to enact a process to move forward with evaluating and permitting offshore wind projects. The GLOW Council’s recommendations would allow for considering all issues and balance the need for clean energy with the protection of our Great Lakes assets.

“We need a process in place to evaluate offshore wind projects and take all issues into consideration,” said **Craig Brainard**, chair of the **Sierra Club West Michigan Group**. “With a good regulatory framework, we can be assured that we’re developing the great resource of wind energy responsibly while putting people to work and growing the economy.”

The GLOW Council’s recommendations would create a process in Michigan to:

- Clearly define the roles of state and local government entities
- Raise adequate revenue for regulation through permits
- Be completely transparent and allow for significant public participation and input
- Ensure the protection of the Great Lakes from unacceptable impacts
- Spell out processes for site selection, leasing of bottomlands, construction permitting, operational standards, decommissioning and royalties

“We are asking **Governor Snyder to stop holding back Michigan’s clean energy economy and to move forward with developing an appropriate offshore wind regulatory framework now,**” said **Sarah Mullkoff** of **Clean Water Action**.

Said **Alexis Blizman** of the **Ecology Center**: “Before we say ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to offshore

wind projects, Michigan must enact a process that looks at all the issues and balances producing clean energy with the protecting our precious Great Lakes. Michigan needs to have this process in place now.”

Groups included in the effort include the Sierra Club, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, the West Michigan Jobs Group, Clean Water Action, the Ecology Center and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

“West Michigan already has jobs in the wind turbine manufacturing industry, from Kaydon Bearings in Muskegon to Energetx in Holland,” said **Eric Justian** from the **West Michigan Jobs Group**.

“It’s important to keep those jobs active and keep West Michigan working,” he added. “That’s part of why our leadership needs to set up framework that will help Michigan businesses nurture and expand the wind power industry in the most responsible way possible. We need to get moving on the regulatory framework so our towns, businesses, and leaders know what to expect.”

An electronic version of the petition drive launched today can be viewed [here](#).

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