The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate  
475 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

The Honorable Timothy Kaine  
United States Senate  
388 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine:

We anticipate that the extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) will become part of the discussion of tax extenders and tax reform later this year. The PTC received a short-term extension that expired at the end of 2014. The PTC is one of the crucial components required to bring large scale reliable renewable energy to the Commonwealth of Virginia, its citizens and businesses. On behalf of the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority, we urge your support for the extension of the PTC when the time is right for its consideration.

Virginia could be on the cusp of creating a significant industrial base and supply chain for offshore wind in the Mid-Atlantic. The PTC is a critical part of this effort. Reducing the cost consumers pay for renewable energy options will be an important element of developing this resource. Offshore wind, once developed, can also be a useful component of Virginia’s compliance with the EPA Clean Power Plan.

VOWDA is cognizant of the higher cost of offshore wind to consumers at this time. We have done everything we can to support funding for a research project that Dominion Virginia Power has planned for offshore of Virginia. We have encouraged both the Commonwealth and the U.S. Department of Energy to support this project with grant funding and both have done so. Working with Dominion and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), VOWDA is participating in stakeholder fora this spring and summer to consider other ways to reduce the cost of developing offshore wind. The PTC extension will be a vital part of our consideration.
The time is right to bring offshore wind to Virginia. Jobs at the Virginia ports, shipyards, supply companies, and universities are waiting for this development. With your continued support, we can make Virginia a hub for renewable energy and high-tech jobs.

With all these factors in mind, VOWDA urges your support for the PTC extension when tax extenders or a tax reform package is being considered. Like Senator Grassley, we do not oppose a future phase-out of this tax credit, but now is not the time to eliminate this credit altogether. After coming so far in the Commonwealth to develop a vital offshore wind project and industry, we cannot afford to lose our momentum now. With your support for the PTC extension, we can see this effort come to fruition.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Al Christopher with any questions you may have. He can be reached at 804-692-3216 or Al.Christopher@dmme.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthias
Chairman
The letter was also mailed to Virginia Representatives Rob Wittman, Scott Rigell, Robert Scott, Randy Forbes, Robert Hurt, Robert Goodlatte, David Brat, Donald Beyer, Morgan Griffith, Barbara Comstock, and Gerald Connolly.