

YOUR VIEWS

Ocean Wind will be beneficial for future generations at Jersey shore

To the Editor:

I am a student of environmental science and a member of Stockton University's environmental club and I fully support the Ocean Wind 1 project proposal as presented to the public earlier this fall. Offshore wind is an important step for South Jersey to achieve a clean and renewable energy future.

As an environmental science student and environmental activist, I feel it is crucial to raise my voice and encourage residents of Ocean City and Cape May County to help bring offshore wind power to South Jersey's coasts.

In the context of dramatic negative changes to the global climate and local environment, it is essential that we transition away from burning fossil fuels to produce our energy. Harnessing wind off of the Atlantic coast gives us an opportunity to do just that.

I was born and raised in Seville, attended Ocean City High School and am currently attending college nearby at Stockton University. I would be saddened to see future generations unable to enjoy this environment because we failed to act. This is the reason I am getting involved to support offshore wind.

Imagine how special it would be for our community to take a big and bold step forward.

Earlier this fall, my classmates and I attended an open house to discuss the Ocean Wind 1 proposal. I was heartened to meet so many others who support

wind energy. There was an impressive mix of young and old supporters, environmentalists from the student community and from the business community. It made me feel hopeful about our chances to make meaningful and lasting change.

But I was disappointed to hear some of my neighbors express that they did not yet see the benefit of wind energy and then leave. It felt like some of the people were there to voice their opinions without really listening to other people's views. We are a community. In order to reach the best course of action, we have to be able to hear each other out.

I believe that through listening and careful research, my neighbors will conclude that the best way forward is clean and renewable offshore wind projects like Ocean Wind.

I would ask my neighbors to think of the memories that they have had in this town. We want those same memories and feelings to be had for many generations to come, for children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I grew up in this community. I knew there would be some hesitation from people in Ocean City. Change is not easy. But I felt I had to make clear my opinions and my view that this is so important. There is a population in this community that is very excited for this program.

My classmates and I are going to stay involved. We will speak our mind and spread our word on the benefits and the possibilities that this will bring. We look forward to having valuable conversations with our neighbors so that all of Ocean City and Cape May County can realize the importance of bringing offshore wind to the Atlantic Coast.

Nicole Fox
Seville



OVER THE BACK FENCE

By Jack Fichter

Pa rum pum pum pum, each year a new drum

One day about 33 years ago, when I worked at WTIS Radio in Tampa, a vinyl record album arrived in the mail. It was from a Christian rock band, the name of which I can't remember. The album was entitled "Little Drummer Boy." The album cover had a photo of a youngster playing a drum set under a lit Christmas tree. I framed it and hung on it on my office wall.

It looked like many of my Christmases as a child. I was the son of a history teacher and a stay-at-home mom. We did not have a lot of

new acquisition. My drums were red sparkle in color and looked beautiful next to the lights of the Christmas tree.

In 1962, my parents gave me a record album for Christmas that had a huge influence on me, "Burnin' Beat," an album of duets between super drummers Buddy Rich and Gene Krupa. I dissected the album and played it until it was full of scratches. It was strictly in the style of big band music. To this day, I can play many of the drum riffs but certainly not to the level of