

November 17, 2021

TO: 2021 L100 Participants
FROM: Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Western Director
Matthew Palmer, Ad Hoc Committee Chair (Network BOD)
RE: Getting to Go - Network legislative activity in the first 10 months of the Biden Administration

Just under 10 months ago, Joseph R. Biden of Delaware was sworn in as the President of the United States and with full Democratic control in Congress after the surprise Senate victories in Georgia. In the following 10 months, the Business Network pivoted its federal strategy to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the new Administration and went to work educating policymakers on industry specific barriers and opportunities. Since then, offshore wind has seen significant advancement and Network priorities have been adopted by federal agencies or incorporated into legislation.

Recent Network efforts on federal issues date back to early 2020 when staff collaborated with members of the Board to develop policy recommendations during the initial COVID-19 stimulus policy deliberations, and to plan for a Biden administration under divided government rule. Network staff had already been active participants in the federal sphere, like a year-long engagement with the Tax Credit Coalition, meeting with congressional staff and signing on to letters with renewable energy organizations, environmental advocates and private sector champions. These efforts were rewarded in late December 2020 when the long overdue stimulus bill passed with extended PTC and ITC tax credits and a new specific offshore wind tax credit.

To meet the opportunity of a new President, the Board of Directors established an Ad-Hoc Federal working group in early January 2021 and finalized a list of priorities laying out significant needs for the offshore wind industry. This effort became more urgent with the Georgia Senate wins, giving Democrats full party control. This Ad-Hoc group sought to link our priorities to components of the Biden plan, identified opportunities for Business Network outreach to the new Administration, and settled on recommendations that would have the possibility of bipartisan support under a Democratic Congress with slim margins.

In the past year, Network staff expanded efforts to engage Congressional offices, worked with other policy organizations to build non-traditional coalitions, educated policymakers and staff about offshore wind's unique barriers and opportunities, engaged with the press, and elevated major policy discussions by utilizing the IPF platform. Network staff were most successful in driving specific meetings related to transmission issues with U.S. Senate office

Among our specific actions:

- Letters to the President and presentations to senior administration officials including David Hayes, Amanda Lefton, Jigar Shah
- Championed and supported creation of an Offshore Wind Energy Caucus in Congress, which was done this Spring and before which the Network conducted a Congressional briefing to over 100 legislative staff and caucus members.

- Communications to targeted Members of Congress introducing/re-introducing the Network, its work and current policy objectives
- Continued collaboration with the Clean Incentives (Tax Credit) Coalition, leading to involvement in other coalitions ie: Macrogrid.
- Creation of a Network BOD Legislative Working Group (Federal Ad Hoc Committee) - along with participation of Holland & Knight and Venn Strategies to support our strategic efforts
- Expanded regional targeting by Network staff to build relationships
- Established defined strategic partnerships with top allies, organizations, individuals and new targets for partnerships; ie: NOIA MOU, Labor Energy Partnership, Coordination with ACP, SIOW, NOWRDC

From the Network's list of legislative and executive priorities, there has been legislation developed for a dedicated advanced manufacturing tax credit for offshore wind; refundability (currently linked to local content requirements); increased port funding with acknowledgement of offshore wind specific needs and longer-term leasing calendars and transparency. Specifically, the Build Back Better Act includes:

- Extensions of the dedicated offshore wind tax credit and renewable energy PTC & ITC, with optionality and direct pay.
- Increased appropriations at BOEM to continue expedited approval of construction and operations plans (COPs)
- A new offshore wind focused manufacturing tax credit as well as the revival of the 48C Advanced Manufacturing Tax Credit
- Expanded port and maritime improvements funding through the existing PIDP program at the U.S. Department of Transportation
- Potential expanded support for vessel development for offshore wind energy installation
- Grid integration and transmission development funding that will begin to incorporate offshore wind
- Expanded funding for research and development, professional development, and workforce development at US DOE.

The lessons of the past year are obvious – a clear federal policy strategy is needed to drive industry advancement in Washington and continue taking advantage of offshore wind's favorable position in the White House.