



LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

**STATEMENT BY IMRAN ANSARI, POLITICAL DIRECTOR
LONG ISLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 29, 2022**

I stand before you on behalf of the Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, representing over 250,000 union members and their families in Nassau and Suffolk Counties in support of IR 1215-2022. This resolution accepts and appropriates \$15 million in New York State grant funding, appropriates PAYGO funds and amends the 2022 Capital Budget and Program for construction of a community hub in Brentwood that is designed to deliver workforce training, community support services, and a platform to leverage public funds that will garner significant private investment to address community and regional needs.

For years, our union movement has advocated for the creation and development of an offshore wind industry in New York State. Working with a coalition of stakeholders we have secured private investment for the establishment of a National Offshore Wind Training Center (NOWTC) from Orsted and Eversource. They have made a formal commitment of \$10 million in funding for the creation of this training center. Furthermore, the federal government recently administered a wind energy area lease auction in the NY bight bringing additional developers into the US market, and likely the New York market. We have, and will continue, to engage these new developers on utilization of this training to position it to service the entire industry in the northeastern United States. If constructed, the community hub in Brentwood is considered by the National Offshore Wind Training Center as the most desirable site to locate.

Our union movement believes hosting the National Offshore Wind Training Center through a public-private partnership with Suffolk County would be a win for all involved. Co-location of the National Offshore Wind Training Center and the community hub in Brentwood would increase exposure for this new and emerging industry and provide education and awareness for the taxpayers of Suffolk County. However, we cannot begin serious deliberations without the advancement of this resolution.

We urge you to pass IR 1215-22.