



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

September 28, 2020

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and your team about how to best balance California's energy needs with Navy training and readiness requirements. As you and I discussed, we both appreciate the complexity of the issue and the involvement of all stakeholders.

The Department of Defense has previously assessed that wind energy development in an area approximately 100 square nautical miles in the vicinity of Morro Bay is impactful to our training but a risk we have assessed as acceptable; however, this assessment is contingent upon a long-term moratorium on further wind energy development in military operating areas.

After our discussions, I have a better appreciation for the energy challenges that lie ahead for the state of California, and your efforts to achieve sustainable energy solutions and a desire to produce three gigawatts of energy from offshore wind. I look forward to working with you to identify a solution and offering support where we can to help resolve this to all parties' satisfaction.

We will continue to examine how active offshore windfarm operations impact our aircraft navigation, communication, and weapons systems, with an expectation that other stakeholders are assessing prospective windfarm locations and impacts. Further, we remain sensitive to potential foreign proximity concerns, given the windfarms' expected proximity to operational areas where Navy assets prepare for overseas deployments. We appreciate support in assessing these issues carefully and deliberately. The threats to our Nation are real and our greatest strength is our training.

I appreciate continuing the dialogue and commit to working with you and your team to do what is best for the state of California, the Navy, all of the Department of Defense, and our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Kenneth J. Braithwaite", is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kenneth J. Braithwaite