

New Jersey Senate

SENATE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

NEW JERSEY STATE HOUSE

P.O. BOX 099

TRENTON, NJ 08625



SENATENJ.COM

NJSENREPS@NJLEG.ORG

P: (609) 847-3600

F: (609) 984-8148

November 2, 2023

State House Commission Chairman and Members

Department of Treasury

PO Box 002

Trenton, NJ 08625-0002

Dear Chairman and Members of the State House Commission,

On March 9, 2023, the State House Commission voted to authorize the Murphy Administration to facilitate leases and/or easements of State and local lands, including sensitive coastal areas, to Orsted. All authorizations were advanced to facilitate Ocean Wind projects which were recently abandoned. I am requesting that when the Commission meets on or about November 20th the Commission vote to rescind these and any other prior authorizations.

By way of example, the Commission voted to authorize the State to give Orsted an easement under a half-acre of beach in Ocean City despite strong local opposition, and to authorize the State to lease 2.5 acres of land to Orsted on Island Beach State Park.

Regardless as to whether the Commission votes to rescind prior authorizations, I respectfully request that the Commission be provided an update on November 20th as to the status of every lease and/or easement authorized by the Commission. Were they ever perfected? Are they currently pending? If they have been perfected, what steps will be taken to get the rights back from Orsted? If they haven't been perfected, is there a reason not to rescind all authorizations to ensure the State lands remain free of future claims?

Though I voted "no" on the authorizations in the minority, I suspect that even Commission members who voted to support the resolutions on March 9 would like an opportunity to rescind them. And I know Senator Oroho and Assembly Minority Leader DiMaio – who did not vote for earlier authorizations – have indicated support for a new vote and an update.

Please let me know in advance of the November 20th meeting if the Commission will be given an opportunity to vote to rescind prior authorizations and if an update on the status of land conveyances will be provided.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael L. Testa, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael L. Testa, Jr.