

A GREAT START-OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The record high temperatures across Europe this summer are another example that the planet is warming exponentially and this warming is having a significant impact on our world. Wildfires rage across entire states every year, while other vast sections of the country are in a historic drought. These problems are getting incrementally worse and every community needs to be doing more to reduce its carbon output.

As a resident of the New Jersey shore, I have seen the effect that climate change has had on our area firsthand. High tides now cause regular flooding on streets in our beach communities. This flooding overwhelms our stormwater and drainage systems. Hurricanes and superstorms occur more frequently with the rainfall being more intense. Significant damage has already occurred and it is time to start fixing it.

I recently attended an informational meeting to discuss Ocean Wind 1, the new offshore wind project off the coast of Atlantic City. While most of the people in attendance were there to learn more information about the project, several people in attendance perpetuated false, partisan claims. The fact is, offshore wind will help protect the Jersey Shore's delicate ecosystem by combating climate change. Climate change is a global issue that affects everyone on Earth and it should not be a partisan issue.

New Jersey should make every effort to expand renewable energy sources like offshore wind and solar power. The first offshore wind project along the state's coast, Ocean Wind I, is a great start. We need to fight for additional renewable energy projects that will curb climate emissions, create jobs and help protect our state from increased flooding and storms. Scientists say that we're running out of time to avert a climate crisis, so the time to act is now. Let's stop the delays and get this project done.