

- RE: Tidal Wetlands Case No. 23-0813, US Wind Inc.

I, _____,

vehemently **oppose** replacing and rebuilding the existing pier and bulkhead proposed to be part of US Wind’s Operation and Maintenance Facility.

The specific proposed licensed activity under 23-WL-0813 is to:

1. Construct a 353 foot long by 30 foot wide concrete pier with associated timber fenders, all within a maximum of 30 feet channel ward of the mean high water line.
2. Construct 383 linear feet of replacement steel bulkhead within a maximum of 18 inches channel ward of the mean high water line.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent push to industrialize the West Ocean City Harbor and its implications for recreational fishing, particularly in the context of sportfishing, which plays a vital role in our local economy and community.

The sportfishing industry is an economic powerhouse for our region. It generates significant revenue, attracts tourism, and supports countless local businesses, from bait and tackle shops to hospitality services. The influx of anglers, eager to cast their lines in our rich waters, not only enhances our community's cultural fabric but also bolsters our economy. However, the ongoing industrial developments threaten to undermine these benefits.

As the harbor becomes increasingly congested with industrial work boats and machinery, we will see a concerning rise in boat traffic. This escalation poses a real challenge for recreational and sportfishing enthusiasts. Specifically, the restricted space for large boats and the impediments caused by work boats navigating through the inlet will drastically impact the shoaling problem that is already an issue.

Moreover, the environmental implications of industrialization cannot be overlooked. Increased boat traffic not only raises the risk of accidents on the water but also contributes to pollution in both our air and water. The potential degradation of marine ecosystems from industrial runoff threatens not only fish populations but also the overall health of our coastal waters. As recreational fishers, we understand the importance of responsible practices and conservation efforts.

In summary, the industrialization of West Ocean City Harbor brings with it significant challenges that could adversely affect our cherished recreational fishing environment and the sportfishing industry integral to our local economy. As stakeholders in this matter, I urge local authorities and decision-makers to consider the long-term impacts of these developments on our community, environment, and economy. . I sincerely hope that this project DOES NOT get approved.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Signature _____

Address _____

Email _____