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My name is Tom Cunningham and I work at Equinor Renewables.

Equinor is a global energy company that is building two offshore wind projects for New York with our partner bp. When completed in the late 2020s, the “Empire Wind” and “Beacon Wind” projects will power over 2 million New York homes with clean, renewable energy for decades to come.

Our company has significant expertise and experience in building large-scale offshore wind projects around the world, and we are honored to have been selected by New York state to develop these projects as part of the state’s efforts to address the climate challenge. We recognize that the reason we’re here today is due to the vision and hard work of New Yorkers:

- New York State has the most aggressive climate and clean energy initiative in the country – and that ambition is driving the construction of offshore wind projects that just a few years ago no one would have dreamed were possible.
- And our work is a direct result of decades of advocacy by individuals and groups like UPROSE (and many others) who knew long ago that their communities needed and deserved a clean energy future, and one which would preserve community assets like the industrial waterfront in Brooklyn.

NYSERDA is responsible for pulling all this together by helping determine which energy sources best meet the state's goals, what expertise is needed to create them, and who will be involved in building them out. And they have done a great job in the difficult work of keeping all of these pieces moving forward together.

That's important because we are all creating an industry that didn't even exist a decade ago. And offshore wind projects – like all the effort going into addressing climate change itself – is a team sport.

- Our work happens with input and participation from state and federal agencies, national and local environmental groups, civic associations, environmental justice organizations, fishermen, scientists, labor, and academic partners.
- That's why we're working with local communities to make sure that these large-scale investments reach the same environmental justice communities and communities of color that led the charge on addressing climate change.
- We're creating new jobs, indeed, new careers right here in New York, and designing programs to help train New York workers to take a hands-on role in an energy transition. Our project activities at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal are expected to bring close to 1000 short-term jobs (construction jobs) and 200 long-term jobs (operations and maintenance jobs).
- This is an industry that experts say will have a two-billion-dollar health impact benefit from reduced pollution and help turn communities like Astoria in Queens from "asthma alley" to "renewable row."

This process is gaining traction and making progress, but it needs to be done carefully and responsibly if it's going to get done right.

- We know that the communities that helped bring us here today are now eager to see results.
- We're working on building a new industry from the ground up, something that will stand the test of time. And building something that lasts takes time to get right. We are creating a new supply chain and have started to announce exciting new supplier agreements that create opportunities for New Yorkers and New York businesses.
- There are also rigorous permitting processes at both the state and federal levels that oversee all this work and make certain it's being done right—and that includes engagement in the community on our projects to make sure they align with values and expectations.

We are growing this industry together, creating a new source of renewable energy, jobs and economic opportunities. We thank NYSERDA and all of you for your hard work. Thank you.