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Submitted Public Comment

Date Submitted: February 8, 2022

Submitted Via: X Email ___ Website ___ Phone ___ Mail

Next Scheduled CAC Meeting Date: February 10, 2022

Name: Steve Hansen

Affiliation: Hampton Roads Offshore Wind Diversity Advocacy Team

Subject: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Draft Report

Comment:

Comments on the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report

As members of the HRPDC CAC scheduled to discuss the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Report during your February 10th CAC meeting, I offer the following comments:

The HRPDC serves a valuable function as a “forum for local elected officials and chief administrators to deliberate and decide issues of regional importance.” The tendency is to look at most issues simply from a narrow economic development viewpoint of increased aggregate job growth and increased private and public revenue. The issue needs to be examined from a 3P perspective: People (individual worker and business equity), Planet (environmental), and Profit (economic growth/revenue). A full-spectrum approach is lacking. This is especially evident in the draft CEDS which discusses economic resilience and diversity in terms of ensuring Hampton Roads industry is resilient and diverse but ignores strategies to make the Hampton Roads workforce economically resilient and diverse. It’s not just about creating and filling more jobs but providing jobs in such a way that workers below the Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) threshold

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are able to thrive. (Over 38% of Portsmouth and Norfolk households are below the ALICE threshold.)

This requires strategies to target vulnerable, disadvantaged communities such as BIPOC, women, LGBTQIA folk, and disabled below the ALICE threshold. In my opinion, the CEDS is DOA (dead on arrival) because its only concern is building bigger. (It does embrace environmental projects but only because they are a path (i.e., a SWOT opportunity) towards growth.) The HRPDC, which represents the residents of Hampton Roads, should have a plan that is less focused on solely building bigger and more focused on building back better that promotes more residents economically thriving through workforce development planning and promotion of industry diversity hiring that leverages the potentiality of economic, environmental, and social/racial justice intersectionality.

These comments will be incorporated into our formal CEDS comments due to HRPDC on February 28th.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Hansen

Hampton Roads Offshore Wind Diversity Advocacy Team