

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Tue 7/18/2017 11:46:49 PM
Subject: House appropriators vote to delay, relocate Maryland offshore wind project

By Alex Guillén

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House appropriators approved an amendment to their 2018 Interior-EPA spending package that would delay development of a Maryland offshore wind farm in order to move it further offshore.

Rep. [Andy Harris](#) (R-Md.) said a planned project off the coast of Ocean City is too close, and said research indicates tourists are less likely to return when turbines are visible offshore. The developer, U.S. Wind, is planning a project about 17 miles offshore. Harris' amendment would prohibit the government from approving construction plans for any project closer than 24 nautical miles from Maryland.

Rep. [Betty McCollum](#) (D-Minn.), the top Interior-EPA spending Democrat, objected, saying the bill would unnecessarily delay a long-planned project and cost the government \$6 million in breach-of-contract fines with the developer. The subcommittee chairman, Rep. [Ken Calvert](#) (R-Calif.), said he had questions about whether the measure could inadvertently affect other projects but nonetheless supported Harris' amendment.

It was approved on a voice vote, and Democrats did not call for a recorded vote.

WHAT'S NEXT: The spending bill is set to clear the Appropriations Committee this evening, but it remains to be seen when it would come to the House floor.

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