

MARINE ENERGY WILL HELP ACHIEVE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Marine Energy Benefits: Marine energy is a significant and valuable **untapped Energy Independence resource** that can help **diversify the U.S. energy portfolio**. Deployment opportunities include offshore power, national security markets, rural and remote communities, and utility-scale grid applications.

Marine Energy Potential: The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates total marine energy resources in the fifty states to be 2,300 terawatt hours per year, **56% of all U.S. electricity generated in 2021**. Utilizing just one-tenth of these resources equals 5.6% of total electricity generation and **could power over 22 million homes**. For comparison, all domestic installed solar power capacity generated 5.6% of total U.S. electricity in 2023. In addition, the DOE Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) has noted that “**up to 50 GW of marine energy capacity** could be added in the United States by 2050.”

International Competition: U.S. support lags behind leading global competitors, who are making significant public investments in the sector—yielding results as multiple marine energy systems reach market entry and scale up for commercial deployment in grid-connected farms. Without increasing research, development and demonstration (RD&D), the U.S. will become an importer, not exporter of these energy generation systems.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT:

- **Increase federal investments for marine energy technology activities** funded by the DOE WPTO and the U.S. Navy Energy Program, including technology advancement, RD&D testing infrastructure, and workforce development.
- Better align federal investments with the near-term needs of **private sector-led technology innovation** and testing activities.
- Eliminate cost share requirements for RD&D funding awards.
- Set national marine energy deployment targets of **500 MW by 2030 and 1 GW by 2035**.
- **Establish a Task Force** with public input to explore any regulatory barriers and needed improvements to license and deploy marine energy projects.