



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



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September 26, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services to **RETROACTIVELY** pay membership dues to the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), (VC# 261590-B001) Cambridge, MA in the amount of \$10,000 for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, upon Governor and Council approval. 100% General Funds.

Funding is available in the following account.

	<u>FY2024</u>
03-44-44-440010-1013-026-500251	\$10,000
Dept. Environmental Services, Commissioner's Office, Organizational Dues	

EXPLANATION

New Hampshire is one of eleven East Coast states contributing to the development of a regional compensatory mitigation claims process for commercial fisheries negatively impacted by the deployment of offshore wind. CBI, along with the Special Initiative for Offshore Wind (SLOW), has been facilitating and coordinating the efforts of the states and collecting the dues which cover the administrative costs of the group's activities. Participation in this group is a critical part of New Hampshire's activities to protect the interests of the State's commercial fishing industry as the federal government pursues the deployment of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine, a process the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and other state agencies including the NH Department of Energy (NHDOE) and the NH Fish & Game Department (NHFG) have been participating in since 2019. The federal process falls under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), a federal agency within the US Department of the Interior. The efforts of the eleven states will provide a mechanism for the administration of mitigation funds; the mitigation funds will be provided by the offshore wind developers who obtain the leases to construct and operate offshore wind farms in the waters of the Gulf of Maine. This request is retroactive as bill was not received until after the start of the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

The states began working with CBI and SLOW in 2021 when this need was identified by the states and the federal government. New Hampshire has been an active member since the group was formed.

2. Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No, this group of eleven states whose activities are being facilitated by CBI and SLOW was created by the states with guidance from the federal government, no similar group exists.

3. How is the dues structure established?

CBI based the dues on the total administrative costs divided equally among the eleven states. Since both CBI and SLOW are 501(c)3, non-profit organizations, foundation funding has also been used to support the activities of the group.

4. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

The activities of this group of states provides New Hampshire with the ability to meet the commitment the State made to the commercial fishing industry to develop methods to protect the industry's interests while New Hampshire participates in the overall process to explore the options for offshore wind deployment in the Gulf of Maine, in collaboration with BOEM, Maine, and Massachusetts.

5. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included?

Research materials regarding similar mitigation funds were provided as the framework for this particular mitigation fund was developed. Access to experts in both the administration of mitigation funds, the commercial industry, and the offshore wind industry was also part of the process.

6. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? No.

7. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Yes.

8. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization?

Mark Sanborn (Assistant Commissioner) and Ted Diers (Assistant Director of the Water Division) from NHDES, Erica Horne (Director of Offshore Wind Industry Development) from NHDOE, and Cheri Patterson (Chief of Marine Fisheries Division) from NHFG are active members of the group's activities.

9. Explain in detail any negative impact to the state if the agency did not belong to this organization.

Without participation in this group, New Hampshire would be losing its ability to help protect the interests of the State's commercial fishing industry and would lose its voice in the helping to develop the structure, framework, and guidelines of the regional mitigation fund being established.

We respectfully request your approval.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



Consensus Building Institute
 2067 Massachusetts Avenue
 STE 570
 Cambridge MA 02140
 United States
 EIN: 043186073

Invoice
 #INV05589
 9/26/2023

Bill To

NH Department of Environmental
 Services
 PO Box 95
 29 Hazen Drive
 Concord NH 03301-0095
 United States

Additional Information

Project: Regional Fund Fisheries Advisors-23-FP%

TOTAL

\$10,000.00

Due Date:

Item	Employee/Description	Hrs/Qty	Rate	Amount
Additional Charges				
Milestone	Accreditation Body fee for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Total Additional Charges				\$10,000.00

Domestic Banking/Payment Information

Bank Name: Cambridge Trust Company
 Bank Address: 1336 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge MA 02138
 Routing #: 011300595
 Checking Acct. #: 17027501

Please make checks payable to:

Consensus Building Institute, Inc.
 2067 Massachusetts Avenue
 STE 570
 Cambridge, MA 02140

Subtotal \$10,000.00

Tax \$0.00

Total(USD) \$10,000.00