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Testimony on

HR 2360 (Landry), "*Providing for Our Workforce and Energy Resources Act*" (POWER Act)

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Good morning and thank you for allowing me to provide testimony at this hearing. My name is Dr. Joseph Orgeron and I am the Chief Technology Officer and a minority owner of Montco Offshore. I am here today to offer my support to the POWER Act because it will establish that all U.S. laws and regulations will apply to our emerging offshore renewable energy market.

Montco Offshore is my family's business and we are now entering into 4th generation of owner-operations. Our company began with my grandfather, a Cajun trapper, who transported early oilfield workers through the swamps of south Louisiana.

Since then, our company has grown by operating different types of vessels that support the offshore energy industry, including crewboats, tugboats, offshore supply vessels, and lastly liftboats which today is the only type of vessel we own and operate. I have included an illustration of a liftboat in operation for your review.

Liftboats are unique because they are equipped with long, movable legs. As self-propelled vessels, they can travel to an offshore location and elevate themselves to provide a stable work-platform. They are also equipped with cranes for heavy-lifts and housing accommodations for offshore workers in addition to the crew.

Although the offshore oil & gas industry has been the bread & butter of my business, I consider myself a supporter of the "all of the above" American energy initiative with all offshore resources, traditional and renewable, as a key component to our U.S. energy independence.

As a result, in 2009 Montco sent one of our liftboats up to the east coast to perform geophysical corings, which included some for an offshore wind farm project. Since then we have joined AWEA (American Wind Energy Association), attended numerous offshore wind conferences, and had direct discussions with the principles of the wind farm projects.

Understanding the needs of the offshore renewable energy market, Montco specifically modified the design our next-generation liftboat. These new liftboats will have significantly larger deck space and a crane with a 500-ton lifting capacity. These are characteristics required to install

offshore wind turbines. The advantage of these vessels is that they will have immediate application in the Gulf of Mexico's oil and gas industry and have the unique qualifications needed to develop domestic offshore wind energy.

On a vessel of this type, the construction alone directly added about 200 south Louisiana shipyard jobs, 50 new U.S. mariner jobs to crew it, and numerous other indirect jobs that would be needed to support the operations of this vessel ...whether it be decommissioning platforms in the Gulf of Mexico or installing wind turbines off Nantucket Sound.

Like any entrepreneur company looking to invest capital in an emerging market, we want to understand the rules of the game on America's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). We support the POWER Act, because it provides the market certainty necessary for us to make investments in the offshore wind energy sector. With the POWER Act, there is no question as to the applicability of a wide range of federal laws including those effecting employment, health and safety, and environmental protection. That certainty is crucial for businesses, like Montco, that have invested in the offshore renewable energy industry.

Thank you for your time and attention.





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