



**NEWPORT
MANSIONS**

| The Preservation Society
of Newport County

STATEMENT REGARDING THE MARCH 20, 2026 SOUTH FORK LITIGATION DECISION

The Preservation Society of Newport County and the Southeast Lighthouse Foundation of Block Island are deeply disappointed by the District Court for the District of Columbia's decision upholding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) flawed methodology for conducting federally mandated review and permitting of the South Fork Wind project.

Our legal action was never about opposing alternative forms of energy. It was about ensuring that Danish developer Ørsted and its federal regulator, BOEM, complied with the law- specifically, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)- which require careful review, transparency, and meaningful consideration of impacts to historic resources and coastal communities.

We are particularly troubled that, throughout this process, the legitimate concerns of preservation organizations and local stakeholders have been minimized by those charged with protecting our shared heritage. In the rush to ease the path of the offshore wind industry, decision-makers embraced the promise of the industry while sidelining their responsibility to fully account for- and plan to avoid, minimize, and adequately mitigate- adverse impacts on nationally significant historic landscapes.

The Court placed significant weight on the fact that certain local, state, and federal officials whose job it is to serve as independent stewards of the public's historic resources, signed off on BOEM's and the developer's errors. The abdication of responsibility of elected and appointed representatives to meaningfully elevate these concerns left our historic communities without the full measure of protection that federal law is meant to provide.

Ignoring the requirements of environmental and historic preservation laws for a "clean energy" project means those laws can be ignored when we need them to protect us against fossil fuel projects, many of which are owned by the same companies that pursue wind energy.

We remain steadfast in our support for responsible, forward-looking clean energy solutions. Our own work reflects that commitment, including, for example, The Preservation Society's significant investment in geothermal systems, stormwater mitigation, and sustainable transportation initiatives. But climate action and the preservation of community heritage are not competing values, they must advance together.

We are carefully evaluating our next steps, including appellate options.