

**Subject: HB 4167 – REDUCES EMISSIONS AND CREATES JOBS**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I urge passage of HB 416, a carefully crafted bill to reduce Oregon's share of global emissions from fossil fuels while going to great lengths to minimize impacts to rural communities. Transitioning our economy to run on clean energy is absolutely necessary but will have some challenges in all sectors, urban and rural. At the same time, it presents significant opportunities to diversify our economy, especially in rural areas, and set it on a sustainable path for the future. Other jurisdictions that have enacted similar legislation (California, Québec and others) have seen stronger economies and rural areas have benefitted from investments generated by this legislation.

A good example for Oregon would be offshore wind energy on the south coast. The IEA (International Energy Agency) published a report last month entitled "Offshore wind to become \$1 trillion industry". Although this industry is only 20 years old, the report attributes its fast growth to falling costs, remarkable technological progress and the urgent need to reduce global emissions. Another factor is many of the best sites for wind energy on land have already been taken. Offshore wind already employs 50,000 in Germany and the UK alone. The DOE (Department of Energy) states the "technical" resource potential for offshore wind is nearly double the nation's current electricity use. DOE estimates developing just 4% of that potential by 2050 would support 160,000 jobs.

An offshore zone, 300 miles long straddling the Oregon-California border, is the sweet spot with the highest energy density along the entire west coast of the United States. It's one of the best wind resources in the world. Coos Bay is the largest deep draft coastal harbor from San Francisco to the Puget Sound and well suited to play a major role in the development of this unique and vital natural resource. Companies are currently planning wind farms in California waters near the Oregon border. California now requires 100% of its electricity be carbon-free by 2045 opening a vast new market nearby. This provides a window of opportunity to leverage the superior port facilities at Coos Bay and secure the construction, operations and maintenance activities for these projects. With a determined and focused effort, Coos Bay and Oregon can become a major hub on the Pacific coast for this promising new industry as it expands along the coast. Studies indicate this would create hundreds and ultimately thousands of sustainable family wage jobs across a wide range of sectors.

Success in making Coos Bay a major hub for offshore wind would result in diversifying the economy of the south coast and setting it on a path to a sustainable future. One of the biggest obstacles the industry is facing is preparing the labor force with required technical skills. HB 4167 will provide extensive investments in training and retraining for the clean-energy economy bringing new pathways of opportunity for residents of the south coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Michael Mitton  
Portland