



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 31, 2021

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair

Re: [HB 3375-1](#) – Floating Offshore Wind – Support

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports active research into ocean energy technologies. Research should incorporate evaluation of impacts on marine habitats and the coastal economy. Commercial deployment should be allowed only after adequate scientific research is completed and **regulations have been adopted**. Monitoring should be ongoing with necessary actions and modifications taken to protect the marine environment. Commercial operations should agree to bear the cost of remediating and restoring any environmental damage.

The [Oregon Offshore Wind](#) Site Feasibility and Cost Study published by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in October, 2019, evaluated five sites along the Oregon coast, of which the two southern ones are very promising. Because the continental shelf off the coast is very narrow, anchored wind turbines are not usable; however, floating turbines have already been used in deep water off Scotland and are in development for use off the Maine coast.

As detailed in the Whereas clauses in the bill, the infrastructure development to support this energy source has co-benefits for **excellent local jobs and increased resilience for the coastal grid and Willamette Valley**. We are encouraged by the potential use of the wind energy for generating green hydrogen.

The 2020 federal funding bill contains a Federal Offshore Wind Investment Tax Credit. On March 29 the “[White House Fact Sheet](#): Biden Administration Jumpstarts Offshore Wind Energy Projects to Create Jobs” was issued. It states: “The President recognizes that a thriving offshore wind industry will drive new jobs and economic opportunity up and down the Atlantic Coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in Pacific waters.” However, all of the specifics are for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. **It is critical that Oregon pass legislation quickly to show the Federal Government that we are serious about implementing major offshore wind energy generation.**

We believe the advantage to Oregon and the global climate of using offshore wind to generate renewable energy makes it appropriate for us to support HB 3375-1, although we would like to see some additional clarification/amendments, particularly with respect to the infrastructure needed in the coastal zone to connect the electricity coming from the turbines to the electric grid.

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