



KALMIOPSIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1265 • Port Orford OR • 97465

To: Chair Pam Marsh and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: HB 3375, amendments urged

Date: April 1, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our group has more than 400 members in Curry County, on Oregon's South Coast, who are concerned about conservation of birds, fish, and wildlife into the future.

For that reason, I'd like to offer constructive comments regarding HB 3375, the bill to establish a state task force to expedite development and installation of floating offshore wind power turbine arrays along Oregon's coast by 2025/ 2030.

While I am very glad to know that you are working in favor of moving toward more renewable energy to help address threats associated with climate change, I think it's important to add language to this bill to explicitly recognize the need to minimize impacts to birds, fish, and wildlife in siting considerations.

The powerful winds that are now drawing the attention of energy development corporations to Oregon's Coast also contribute to upwelling of cold water and nutrient, creating one of the most productive marine environments on the West Coast. Oregon's rich waters support not only our renowned fish and fisheries but also habitat for a significant portion of the West Coast's breeding seabirds and nearly 100 species of pelagic birds, as well as marine mammals, including several species of whales. According to ODFW, "watchable wildlife" and fisheries—both recreational and commercial—are significant economic drivers on Oregon's coast. They are popular draws for tourism and are also cherished by many citizens in our coastal communities.

For these reasons, as our state moves to increase its renewable energy options, we will need to be careful and thoughtful about where large floating offshore wind power arrays will be sited, and I urge you to make sure that important step will not be short-changed on the state level.

With these considerations in mind, I urge you to please improve the bill with the following additions:

- 1) a requirement for an ODFW Director (or designee of the director) position on the task force, under Section 2c (p. 3 lines 7-17)
- 2) language to explicitly consider minimizing impacts to birds, fish, and wildlife into the bill criteria under Section 3k (p.4, lines 13-38)

We very much appreciate the recent amendment to minimize “the conflicts between floating offshore wind energy, the ocean ecosystem and ocean users,” but we think these amendments could better account for the exceptionally high values of our rich marine waters to marine life and would better assure the ultimate goals of this bill are met.

Thank you for considering our perspective and for your public service on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Vileisis".

Ann Vileisis
President, Kalmiopsis Audubon