

House Energy & Environment Committee Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3375

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm, and members of the committee,

I'm writing to you today in support of HB 3375, which points us toward the economic opportunities that will come with renewable power generation in our state. Although I wish we were taking more aggressive actions to stimulate offshore wind development, this bill at least gets us started in the right direction.

But understand that we are in a race with California for harbor siting for a number of projects that companies are planning for off the southwest coast of Coos Bay, one of the most prolific ocean wind regions in the world. Offshore winds, unlike inland winds, are rarely still. They are much less subject to wind speed and directional inconsistencies. Some transmission infrastructure is already in place in the North Bend/Coos Bay area. Passing legislation that provides power developers a known consumer market, with transmission lines available, could give Oregon a tangible advantage over a Humbolt Bay port siting.

But that's not all. The 19 gigawatt total potential from this area makes possible a future green hydrogen mega project. Green hydrogen could become a substitute in industrial settings for the methane that currently powers many manufacturing sites in Oregon. It would eventually require some revamping of current gas lines, but clears a pathway to the greening of concrete production, food processing, and many other Oregon industries. These are often industries that are fiercely competitive and lacking in easily viable fuel alternatives.

Imagine what these projects would do for our southwest coast, which has lost so many jobs since the 1980s.

Large power development projects routinely take 10 years to make it through the approvals and review and licensing stages. We must get moving. This is a win for our state's renewable goals and for our economic future.

Sincerely,
Brett Baylor

Retired TriMet Information Technology Manager

Member, Metro Climate Action Team

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