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# A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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TO: Chair Lieber  
Vice Chair Knopp  
Members of the Senate Rules Committee  
FR: Catie Theisen, OR AFL-CIO  
RE: SB 678-3 Support, Offshore Wind Development in Oregon

June 13, 2023

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 678 with the -3 amendments to invest in Offshore Wind Infrastructure in Oregon.

Union members in Oregon are acutely aware of the importance of transitioning our energy resources to cleaner sources and have been actively involved in discussions around this transition for more than a decade. Given the potential for offshore wind when it comes to our energy resiliency, economic support, and the opportunity to create countless good union jobs, the Oregon labor movement is eager to ensure that wind energy development off the coast of Oregon is done in a way that benefits workers and the broader communities.

As such, it is imperative that all impacted communities – including workers – are at the table alongside diverse stakeholders to ensure that as our state and nation moves towards our climate and energy goals, Oregonians are not left behind in this transition. Consequently, we support SB 678 and the subsequent -3 amendment that provides funding for the Department of Land Conservation Development for \$250,000 to conduct outreach and engage and coordinate with state agencies, local governments and affected communities. We appreciate the call-outs to specific groups and ask that workers also be explicitly included in those ongoing conversations.

In order to ensure that offshore wind leasing off the coast of Oregon is aligned with our state policies as well as federal priorities related to increasing union density, advancing racial equity, revitalizing U.S. manufacturing, and more, we also continue to support explicit standards included in offshore wind development through high-road labor standards. This is why we also strongly support the -3 amendment's provision to ensure high quality job creation and promote "economic diversification and resilience" through apprenticeships, workforce training and development, prevailing wage, project labor agreements, labor peace agreements, community benefit agreements, and local and regional supply chain investments.

While we know there are concerns from some coastal community members about offshore wind development, we are confident that there is a path forward to hear, respond to, and iterate around those concerns. Because ultimately there is so much potential opportunity presented from offshore wind: from working to meaningfully achieve energy resilience, an unprecedented opportunity for Oregon to leverage millions in federal dollars, and significant economic investment in family-supporting jobs to stimulate coastal communities and local economies long-term.

We strongly encourage your support of SB 678 with the -3 amendments.