

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Osborn, and I live in Coos Bay. I am the president of Blue Ridge Strategies, which works with Deep Blue Pacific Wind. We think offshore wind could be great for Southern Oregon communities.

We appreciate this consideration to ensure the offshore wind leasing process proceeds constructively. It is critical that the state be prepared to engage within the BOEM process, while supporting the balanced exchange of information between affected parties.

Not everyone has their mind made up on offshore wind and this language facilitates the sharing of information and concerns, as well as conversations about how to address them.

Offshore wind is an opportunity for the South Coast to contribute to Oregon's clean energy future. It also offers community and economic benefits we can't ignore, but leasing must be done thoughtfully and consider the needs of current ocean users and our communities. We intend to bolster the economy while supporting the state's clean energy objectives. SB 678, as amended, will help to facilitate that growth, while helping to address concerns.