



June 13, 2023

To: Senator Kate Lieber, Chair Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Tim Knopp, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Rules
Members of the Committee
From: Diane Brandt, Oregon State Director, Renewable Northwest
Re: **Support for SB 678**

Oral Testimony as Prepared for Delivery on June 13, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Diane Brandt and I am the Oregon State Director at Renewable Northwest. Renewable Northwest is a nonprofit that advocates for the responsible decarbonization of the electricity grid and we have a membership that ranges from renewable energy industry including a wide group of large and medium developers - including OSW developers - and supporting industry and services, and other non profits including environmental and consumer advocates.

I am here today **in support of SB678 with the -3 amendment** which proposes state policies for ensuring community and local involvement and benefit around offshore wind development and tasks the Department of Land Conservation and Development's Coastal Management Program to conduct outreach, engagement, and coordination in support of these state policies. To be clear, this is not assuming an outcome, but puts resources towards the continued conversations and exploration of offshore wind in Oregon.

Offshore wind off the Oregon coast has the potential to provide many benefits to Oregon - from the rich, non-emitting electricity generation potential to creating local, state, and regional benefits from economic and resiliency opportunities - an offshore wind industry has a lot to offer. But, as with any new development, it carries the potential for impacts to existing economies and ecosystems. As a state, we have the opportunity to continue the conversation and engagement

with affected communities, stakeholders, and Tribes to understand these concerns around potential impacts, and also better understand how to prioritize these communities in ensuring they benefit from any potential offshore wind development.

SB 678 with the -3 amendment is an important piece of this - it sets out clear state priorities around potential offshore wind development, and resources DLCD to conduct work in support of these priorities and policies.

To be clear, this is not assuming an outcome but is setting a framework for exploring the issue set, and supporting doing the due diligence around understanding what offshore wind would mean for Oregon, heading towards informed decisions for the state and communities.

We are in support of the -3 amendment, we see the strong potential in OSW to support Oregon's energy future and offer many other benefits in the process, but also want to have a good process that considers Tribes, fisheries, communities, and other stakeholders. Thank you for your consideration. I welcome any questions.