



**West Coast Seafood Processors
Association**

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June 15, 2022

Dear Oregon Legislators: **Please vote no on SB 678.** This bill is premature, assumes outcomes that aren't proven for Oregon waters and could inflate the costs to Oregon ratepayers, especially when other state and federal renewable projects, like solar, geothermal and onshore wind, will achieve lower costs.

The West Coast Seafood Processors Association represents shoreside seafood processors in California, Oregon and Washington, whose fishermen target a variety of species including Dungeness crab, several species of groundfish (including Pacific hake or "whiting"), coldwater pink shrimp, salmon and albacore tuna. Our member companies range from small "mom-and-pop" processors to the largest, vertically integrated processors on the West Coast. Our processors in all three states depend on fish and shellfish harvested in or near the current Oregon call areas. Fishermen are mobile and can move; shoreside processors cannot. However, even though fishermen do travel, wind farms placed in some or all of the call areas still hold the potential for dire effects on the seafood industry and could have long-lasting environmental effects on the ocean and its ecology.

Therefore, we urge you to vote no on SB 678.

We understand the intentions of SB 678 include keeping coastal communities resilient and affords them a say in the outcomes of offshore wind leasing. But again, this is premature, since it is unclear whether the more costly floating offshore wind will be part of Oregon's power portfolio. The Pacific Fishery Management Council in April [urged the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\) pause the current leasing process](#); state and [federal lawmakers, including Gov. Tina Kotek, also requested a pause](#) in offshore wind development activities.

Community agreements, like the kind envisioned in SB 678, will not make up for the loss of fishing grounds (and resulting downstream effects to coastal businesses), damage to the ocean ecosystem and habitats, and threats to our nation's food security from offshore wind, especially when other forms of renewable energy are available with fewer effects to the environment and businesses.

For example, the U.S. Department of Interior is updating the Bureau of Land Management's [proposed Renewable Energy Rule](#) that would reduce solar, geothermal and onshore wind project fees by roughly 80%. Already, since early 2021, the [BLM has approved 35 land-based renewable energy projects](#), proven projects, that use approximately 23,396 acres (36.5 square miles) of BLM-managed lands and will produce more than 8 gigawatts of electricity for Western

states. In contrast, floating offshore wind off Oregon is unproven and will require *millions* of acres (*thousands* of square miles) of ocean areas – areas for which fishing and offshore wind cannot coexist – to produce a mere 3 gigawatts of energy that currently has no real transmission capacity to get from the coast to major population centers. In short, floating offshore wind is expensive and does not make sense for Oregon, especially when other renewable energy sources are more readily available and can be implemented in time to affect the climate crisis.

Please vote no on SB 678.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori L. Steele".

Lori Steele
Executive Director