



May 17, 2023

RE: HB3382 - Relating to Ports

Dear members of the House Committee on Transportation,

I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Oregon Trawl Commission (OTC) to express our opposition of the Oregon House Bill 3382, which would authorize major Oregon ports to construct, maintain and improve deep draft navigation channel improvements without demonstrating compliance with state or local land use law. OTC is an industry-funded state government commission, established by the Oregon State Legislature to support the Oregon's trawl fishing industry. With roughly 100 fishing vessels in the trawl fleet, our fishermen participate in the bottom trawl groundfish, shorebased pacific whiting, and the Oregon pink shrimp fisheries, collectively producing on average ~\$60 million in economic value to fishermen alone each year. The vast majority of our fishermen represent small local businesses, and many also come from multi-generational fishing businesses.

This bill intends to fast-track large-scale port projects, including for offshore wind energy development, by exempting them from state and local land use and environmental regulations. Focusing on offshore wind energy component of the bill (which is listed as one of the eligible categories for the exemption), there is a substantial amount of evidence of the negative impacts from offshore wind farms to marine environment, marine mammals, and other aquatic life, including commercially and ecologically important stocks. This evidence is overwhelming. While a lot is already known about the impacts, we really have only a glimpse into the extent of those impacts. The reason for that is the aggressive technological growth in the offshore wind energy sector and the fact that most of the scientific data accumulated to date about the impacts is based on fewer, smaller turbines, located closer to shore and in considerably shallower waters. The depth range that is being discussed for offshore wind farms off Oregon is unprecedented on the global scale of this development; the deepest floating offshore wind farm in existence today is located off the coast of Norway at the depth of under 1,000ft versus nearly 4,300ft proposed for Oregon. The idea is that they will use a prototype-based 12MW floating semi-submersible turbine tethered to the ocean floor with miles of mooring lines likely using 3-4 massive size drag embedment anchors each wedged 30ft deep under the seabed. The height of each turbine is equivalent to three (3) Statues of Liberty with the pedestal, each weighing 1,729 tons.¹ 250 of such turbines would be required to produce the nameplate capacity of 3GW of offshore wind energy in Oregon.

We do not support this bill. Offshore wind energy development poses a great threat to the fishing industry, and it can have devastating effects to the coastal and marine environments. Why are we considering lowering the bar for these entities? It is unacceptable to allow corporate interests that

¹ GE Haliade-X 12-MW turbine

threaten our fisheries and marine environment to bypass Oregon's environmental safeguards that have been put in place for a reason – to maintain the balance between human and natural environments and to ensure that any development undergoes a proper environmental scrutiny.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yelena Nowak". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Yelena Nowak

Director, Oregon Trawl Commission