

Submitter: D Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor

Measure: HB4080

This bill creates a state policy on offshore wind energy. Tells the state agency on energy to make a road map on standards for offshore wind energy. Makes a person involved in an offshore wind energy or port project to meet certain labor and supply chain standards. Tells the state agency on land use to conduct, or support, federal reviews of offshore wind leasing decisions.

Declares a state policy to support engagement between offshore wind developers and impacted organizations, communities and tribes. Declares a state policy regarding offshore wind energy development and labor and supply chain standards. Directs the State Department of Energy to develop an Offshore Wind Roadmap that defines standards regarding the development of offshore wind energy. Requires a developer or contractor involved in an offshore wind energy project or port development project that is necessary for the development of an offshore wind energy project to meet certain labor and supply chain standards. Directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development to conduct, or support, consistency reviews of offshore wind leasing decisions and related actions. Directs the department to submit a report on the department's activities to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to energy and development not later than September 1, 2025. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

Oregon uses over 48 million megawatt-hours (MWh) per year of electricity, which comes from a combination of hydroelectric (40%), coal (32%), natural gas (17%), land-based wind (7%), nuclear (3%), and other sources (1%). Oregon's offshore wind farms are projected to produce 2.6 gigawatts (2,600 MWh) requiring 18 wind turbines and foundations, 6,800 miles of cable, and dozens of specialized vessels.

For so little, how much will this cost in consumer electric bills, not to mention the maintenance and repairs?

It is not possible to have an accurate environmental risk assessment or estimated production output of these wind farms due to the lack of long-term studies on floating wind farms. There have only been a handful of 5-year studies using prototypes and some of those prototypes were disassembled and recycled after 5 years of use. All prototypes are estimated to have a life span of only 15 years.

The Pacific Ocean is the most powerful of all open oceans and the most destructive. When considering the breakdowns, failures, and fluid leaks that occur within the lifespan of a wind turbine, there is a high probability of environmental damage

requiring high maintenance, and failures and leaks will be significant if there is a viable turbine able to withstand the Pacific Ocean for any period.

Some studies show wind turbines in the summer only produce 17% of what they produce in the winter. That means Oregon can only rely on 17% of the actual maximum output or be subject to rolling blackouts every summer.