



February 6, 2024

Chair Holvey
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4015

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Offshore wind could be a key element of Oregon's decarbonization pathway. Consideration of offshore wind must include a robust stakeholder engagement process that incorporates feedback from the fishing industry, Tribes, coastal communities, climate advocates, labor, business, and renewable energy developers. An offshore wind roadmap will give Oregonians a voice on offshore wind and access to much needed information and resources. HB 4015 includes authorization and guidance for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) in launching the roadmap process, additional resources for the federal consistency review, and strong labor standards.

We strongly support this measure. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

1. An offshore wind roadmap will give Oregonians a voice and ensure protection of our environmental, cultural, and ocean resources

There are potentially substantial benefits for Oregon's communities from offshore wind development, including energy resilience, economic development, and jobs. However, communities also have significant concerns about offshore wind, and those concerns must be addressed. The best opportunity for broad stakeholder engagement is through an offshore wind roadmap. Maine undertook a similar roadmap process that allowed its communities to have critical conversations about the benefits and impacts of offshore wind.¹ Any roadmap design should include robust stakeholder engagement, facilitation of discussion on key issues, provision of information and resources to the public, synthesis of stakeholder feedback, and consideration of outputs. DLCD is well positioned to lead a roadmap with the support of other key state agencies.

2. Supporting DLCD's consistency review process complements the roadmap and ensures Oregon's policies are upheld

The federal consistency review process ensures that Oregon's interests are taken into account as the federal government considers offshore wind development in waters off our coast. This is

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind/roadmap>

particularly important as it pertains to the Coastal Zone Management Act, and with respect to ocean resources and users. Ensuring DLCD has adequate capacity and authority to undertake the consistency review, and to address reasonably foreseeable effects to the coast, will give Oregon the best footing to safeguard our communities and resources should we pursue offshore wind development.

3. Strong labor standards will ensure those who work on offshore wind projects receive fair wages

Offshore wind projects will bring good jobs to Oregon, particularly in our coastal communities. Many of the labor standards in HB 4080 are already codified in other provisions of state law, including HB 2021. It is a clear policy of the State of Oregon to maintain strong labor standards for construction of renewable energy projects, including prevailing wages and/or Project Labor Agreements.

For all these reasons, we urge your support for HB 4080.

Sincerely,

Joshua Basofin

Joshua Basofin
Clean Energy Policy Manager
Climate Solutions