

Continuing the Oregon Offshore Wind Conversation

Support for HB 4080

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our support for continuing Oregon’s conversation and deliberation on offshore wind as proposed in HB 4080. The bill proposes an offshore wind roadmap, led by the State’s Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to engage stakeholders thoughtfully to ensure that the consideration of offshore wind is transparent, robust, and inclusive. Should offshore wind be realized in Oregon, HB 4080 mandates fair labor standards for the construction and manufacturing of parts.

HB 4080 does not assume an outcome, but rather directs resources to key state agencies to continue the investigation and exploration of offshore wind in Oregon.

Continuing the Conversation

There remain important questions about offshore wind and how it would be deployed in Oregon. An offshore wind roadmap, led by DLCD and with support from other state agencies, will allow for robust dialogue and engagement to continue with communities, stakeholders, and Tribes to understand concerns around potential impacts to Oregon’s sustainable fisheries, food production, coastal communities and economies, the local environment and wildlife, and cultural and Tribal resources. It will also ensure equitable benefit from offshore wind development should it occur. Additionally, HB 4080 tasks DLCD’s Coastal Management Program to conduct outreach, engagement, and coordination related to offshore wind. Ultimately, HB 4080 establishes a framework for exploring offshore wind and provides resources for Oregon to conduct effective due diligence.

Why is Offshore Wind Being Considered?

Oregon has set an ambitious path to 100% clean energy by 2040. Oregon’s offshore wind resource 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, cultures, and ecosystems. HB 4080 strikes the balance between understanding our climate imperative while centering any decision within impacted communities.

