The Climate Reality Project®
PORTLAND CHAPTER

February 7, 2024

To: House Business and Labor
Regarding HB 4080

Dear Chair Holvey and Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa and Committee Members,

My name is Karen Harrington testifying in support of HB 4080, regarding Offshore Wind on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter. I am the Legislative Committee Chair.

Climate pollution is here and felt by all Oregonians – whether from air and water pollution, extreme heat and drought, wildfires, or erratic and intense storms. Lives have been lost due to the increasing number and intensity of wildfires and due to extreme heat and cold. Our family felt the effects when my granddaughter, Kinley, was born in June 2021 in Portland and came home in 116 degree heat. Her family was fortunate to have air conditioning and their neighborhood did not lose power. Others were not so fortunate.

A top priority to fight climate change shared by the global climate scientific community is to stop burning fossil fuels and adopt clean renewable energy. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the 5th National Climate Assessment, American Association for the Advancement of Science, to name a few, all emphasize the urgency of the crisis and the need to stop burning fossil fuels.

There are alternatives! According to the State of Oregon: Energy in Oregon - Electricity Mix in Oregon, in 2021 46 percent of Oregon's energy was produced by renewable sources: hydro, nuclear, solar, and on land wind. On land wind accounts for 10% of that mix. Incorporating floating offshore wind in the mix has multiple benefits described below.

In 2022, The Oregon Department of Energy published its 2022 FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND: Benefits & Challenges for Oregon mandated by HB 3375 in 2021. The report outlined the potential benefits and challenges to developing offshore wind along Oregon's coastline. Benefits included:

- Immense Scale of Offshore Wind Resource
- Generation Diversity Value

- Offsetting Land Use Impacts from Onshore Renewable Development
- Power System Reliability
- Local Energy Resilience
- Economic Development

Page 19 of the report, states:

> Winds off Oregon's coast are some of the strongest and most consistent in the world. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates that Oregon has the technical potential for 62 GW of offshore wind electricity generation capacity. The abundance of this high-quality wind resource provides an opportunity for gigawatt-scales of FOSW (Floating Offshore Wind) to contribute toward meeting the decarbonization and clean energy goals of Oregon and other Western states

The report also detailed the following concerns:

- Concerns About Adverse Effects on Coastal Communities, Existing Industries, the Environment and Cultural Resources
- Complex Siting & Permitting
- Technology Readiness and Costs
- Port Infrastructure
- Transmission Infrastructure
- Power Offtake Commitment(s)

Another agency of interest to passage of HB 4080, is the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. The task force convened its most recent meeting in Oregon on September 18, 2023 which included multiple state agencies, the Governor's office, and local governments and organizations (BOEM Oregon Intergivermental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting). BOEM coordinates Outer Continental Shelf renewable energy activities offshore Oregon with its federal, state, local, and Tribal government partners through this task force. BOEM's goals include:

- Ensured coordination, outreach, and engagement with Tribal Governments, State of Oregon, Federal agencies, and State agencies
- Integrated scientific studies and spatial analyses to support informed decision-making
- Published Draft Wind Energy Areas for comments

BOEM's task force identified overlapping benefits and concerns similar to ODOE's 2022 report mentioned above. In response to concerns, BOEM improved transparency and input from Tribal nations, and federal, state, and local agencies. It has increased discussions with local industries, including fishing and is utilizing Spatial Suitability Modeling which:

- Analyzes the "whole ecosystem,"
- Identifies hotspots of conflict and opportunity
- Requires set rules (weights) and methods
- Provides defensible and transparent methods
- Allows for scenario planning
- Supports comprehensive environmental review

Another project of note in potential development of FOSW is the $2 million grant awarded to Oregon State University in Newport, OR from the US Department of Of Energy, one of four nationally. This grant will conduct visual surveys and acoustic monitoring of marine mammals and seabirds to develop predictive density maps of species present in potential wind energy development areas on the West Coast. DOE Announces $13.5 Million for Sustainable Development of Offshore Wind | Department of Energy

Passage of HB 4080 is the next step in addressing the concerns identified in the ODOE report in 2022 and BOEM's Oregon task force and under study at OSU In Newport, all referenced above. HB 4080 mandates a road map on standards for offshore wind energy. It also requires certain labor and supply chain standards, good for Oregon's local coastal economies and meeting requirements to access IRA funding for FOSW off our coasts. Labor unions acknowledge the strong local labor standards in HB 4080 as is apparent in their submitted testimony. The bill requires engagement between offshore wind developers and impacted communities, organizations, and tribes. We strongly encourage meaningful, mandated collaboration between offshore wind development and local industry including fishing. A report will be due to the Legislative Assembly regarding leasing and related actions by September 1, 2025.

Producing offshore wind energy here in Oregon has the potential to generate an additional three gigawatts by 2030, enough to power one million homes, and the estimation of 62 GW wind capacity from The National Renewable Energy Laboratory would more than equal Oregon's current annual electricity use.

Thank you,

Karen Harrington
Volunteer, Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter
Legislative Committee, Co-Chair
Volunteer, MCAT
Member, Building Resilience Coalition

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About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at https://climaterealitypdx.com/, and the Climate Reality Project at www.climaterealityproject.org.