



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 7, 2024

To: Rep. Paul Holvey, Chair, Reps. Lucette Elmer and Nathan Sosa, Vice Chairs
Members of the [House Committee on Business and Labor](#)

Re: [HB 4080-1](#) – **Offshore Wind Community Engagement – Comments**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes responsible government management of the coastal and nearshore natural resources should be based on a complete environmental assessment, cumulative impact analysis and baseline data specific to Oregon. The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports actions to restore and preserve estuaries to assure they function effectively in the long term.

The LWV of Oregon recognizes the interests of workers and the need for quality livelihood of our citizens. The proposed amendment addresses one of our concerns around the need for a broad engagement beyond a narrow conversation between offshore wind energy developers, three ports, tribes, and the Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board. We appreciate the -1 amendment that clearly expands that engagement. However, it fails to respect the pause as requested by the state and federal fisheries agencies and a previous request by the Coastal Caucus and assumes acceptance of the call areas.

HB 4080-1 assumes that the broad engagement will develop a roadmap that recognizes the [2022 study report](#) requested by the legislature and done by the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) that further study, engagement, and collaboration are needed. ODOE's study indicated that there was broad support for more information and studies across many topics to fully understand and add clarity on the potential value and trade-offs of developing offshore wind in Oregon. A common theme emerged around an interest in increased regional and local collaboration to balance the potential benefits and challenges.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided substantial analysis regarding the proposed lease sites and has expressed concerns and approaches to foster minimization of impacts to current uses and ecosystem resources, while the nascent offshore wind energy industry resolves crucial logistical and market barriers to using Oregon's offshore wind resource. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council has provided extensive communications to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) urging reconsideration of the initial models for call areas, and urged pausing development in the two call areas until more of these concerns are addressed. More information on the rationale for the data used and excluded from the siting process was needed.

In November of 2023, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians ("Tribe") unanimously passed a resolution expressing its opposition to offshore wind energy development off the Oregon Coast. The resolution corresponds with the deadline for comments on the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ("BOEM") on two draft Wind Energy Areas ("WEAs") for development of wind energy in areas near Florence and Brookings.

The Tribe urged that "*Standards for green infrastructure should not be less than other energy development,*" said Vice Chair Doug Barret. "*Green infrastructure must not trump the federal government's obligations to protect tribal resources.*" Additionally, the Coos Bay proposed areas could also present navigation and safety issues, especially for vessels fishing Heceta Bank and then transiting farther offshore. The draft Coos Bay WEA is a Dover sole spawning area.

NOAA survey has shown it also is a forage and/or spawning area for Pacific sardine, with larval. All of these aspects support a broad and extensive engagement by all parties while these critical considerations are resolved.

We ask that you consider our comments as you deliberate on this legislation with the -1 amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Rebecca Gladstone
Co-President LWVOR



Christine Moffitt, Ph.D.
Coastal Portfolio

cc: Rep. Dacia Grayber