



Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee On Business & Labor  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

February 9, 2024

**RE: Support for House Bill 4080 and its -1 amendment**, charting a roadmap for floating offshore wind power in Oregon.

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Sosa and Elmer, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the more than 74,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, we are writing in support of House Bill 4080, a proactive roadmap that will help ensure Oregonians benefit from the development of new floating offshore wind off the south coast.

Offshore wind represents one of the greatest opportunities in the global renewable energy transition currently under way. Oregon's south coast has some of the strongest sustained winds on the west coast, and the new infrastructure promises coastal jobs and the opportunity to improve the area's electrical grid stability.

Here is what HB 4080 with the -1 amendment will do:

- **Require the creation of an offshore wind roadmap.** Many local communities and stakeholders have been asking for greater clarity and engagement on possible offshore wind projects. Conservationists, commercial fishermen, coastal residents, organized labor, the renewable energy industry, Tribes, and others will benefit greatly from clearer guidance and support from the state of Oregon. HB 4080-1 will provide a pathway for meaningful engagement across these communities. It will also allow the state to continue investigating the potential benefits and impacts of offshore wind and launch technical studies on some of the most pressing questions regarding developing offshore wind (environmental impacts, transmission lines, energy generation, economic development, and workforce development to name a few), and provide meaningful engagement.



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- **Adds emphasis on the protection of tribal cultural and archaeological resources and the interests of Tribal Nations, as well as protection of the environment and marine species (Section 3(1)(e-f)) to the roadmap.** Oregon's south coast is a unique place with little existing offshore development. It is highly important to support the interests and objectives of Indian tribes, who have historically borne the brunt of the burdens and damages from our energy systems in the Pacific Northwest. It is also critical to understand and mitigate possible negative impacts from offshore wind to the coastal environment and marine species, while recognizing that the status quo of burning fossil fuels and climate disruption is the worst option for the environment, fish, and wildlife.
- **Require responsible labor-contractor standards and domestic supply chain in the event of development.** We should ensure that Oregon's workers—especially our coastal communities—are given the opportunity to be trained and employed in offshore wind installation, maintenance, and supporting infrastructure jobs with living wages and pathways to retirement. In addition, the legislation also promotes a domestic supply chain in the event of development.
- **Ensure that Oregon's role in reviewing offshore wind is set up for success** by supporting the Department of Land Conservation and Development in conducting its federal consistency review of offshore wind under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Over the course of the many years required to build offshore wind, there are many opportunities for Oregonians to engage with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and its partnering federal agencies to shape and influence the project. So far, many south coast residents as well as other stakeholders have asked for clarity and opportunities to meaningfully engage with the process. HB 4080-1 takes some of the best lessons learned from other states who are working on offshore wind ([like Maine](#)) and gives Oregonians the tools to do offshore wind development the right way.

We strongly urge a yes vote on HB 4080.

Sincerely,



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