

Submitter: William Kammin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3786

At a time of great federal uncertainty, where the ability to monitor the environment is under threat, it is paramount that Oregon invest in ocean research to protect the largest Dungeness crab fishery in the world and the coastal communities that rely on coastal highways, fresh local seafood, and Oregon beach tourism. The Oregon Ocean Science Trust funding not only provides important research on ocean acidification, sea-level rise, and salmon and otter habitat restoration, but it has provided a bridge between industry, community, and scientists. Oregonians naturally rally together, and volunteers from around the state have contributed to Oregon Ocean Science Trust funded research to help actively manage the fisheries of the state, and work to protect their neighbors livelihoods. Building these community connections through science and fostering mutual beneficial partnerships between industries is as Oregonian as it gets.

Oregon is a world leader in ocean science, and my personal research on Coos Bay offshore wind development for my masters thesis involved interviewing citizens of the south coast. Oregon citizens hoped that offshore wind would provide good family wage jobs, taxes for community services, and provide an industry large enough to replace some of the job loses that continue in the timber industry. In Coos County timber jobs have continued contracting, representing the highest job losses of any sector. These coastal communities need good paying jobs to pay for the ever increasing housing costs along the Oregon coast. There is still much uncertainty regarding offshore wind and my research revealed that many residents still don't understand the scope and scale of potential offshore wind developments. Though offshore wind development is on hold now, much more research is needed. Early research results on environmental impact, and economic impact seem to be hugely positive for coastal communities, with the possibility of hundreds of jobs, billions in investments across Oregon, and a cutting edge industry that could eventually provide enough low cost electricity to power the entire state. Though we are not building offshore wind now, research on offshore wind would set up Oregon to be a world leader in clean ocean energy, just like it is a world leader in ocean science.

Please support HB 3786 so Oregonians have the information needed to create a resilient and biodiverse coast for all to enjoy for decades to come.