



June 16, 2025

RE: Support for HB 3963

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3963, which would extend the timeline for [Oregon's offshore wind roadmap](#) development process through the end of 2026. As an organization represented as an offshore wind roadmap roundtable member, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition fully endorses this extension as an opportunity to improve the roadmap process and deepen stakeholder engagement, so we may provide comprehensive, well-researched and vetted recommendations that reflect the needs of diverse stakeholders across the state.

As Oregon considers the potential for offshore wind energy to contribute to our clean energy goals, it is essential that we get the process right from the outset. This bill reflects a practical and strategic response to current circumstances. Federal delays in offshore wind projects across the nation have created an unexpected opportunity for Oregon to take more time responding to this emerging industry interest in Oregon's windy nearshore environment. With additional time to develop the roadmap and recommendations to the legislature, Oregon can strengthen the final product by deepening stakeholder engagement, improving coordination across sectors, developing a research agenda, and ensuring that tribal nations, coastal communities, ocean users, and environmental interests are meaningfully involved in shaping our approach.

Although the Department of Land Conservation and Development has done an outstanding job responding to emerging needs and leading the charge in an inclusive and collaborative process, the process was initially designed to be rushed to ensure Oregon can respond rapidly to federal interests. Now that the pressure is off, we can delve even deeper into issue areas and emerging topic areas that have arisen in roadmap meetings thus far. Given the complexity of the issue, all roadmap members would benefit greatly from an extended timeline, and it would allow for more time for partnerships to materialize, research to be done, and for meaningful Tribal engagement to be conducted.

The decisions we make now will have long-lasting implications for ocean health, community resilience, energy equity, and economic opportunity. Rushing this foundational process could lead to avoidable conflicts or unintended impacts down the line. By extending the timeline, this bill ensures that Oregon's roadmap reflects not only the urgency of climate action, but also the wisdom of inclusive, transparent, and science-informed planning.

I urge your support for this extension through voting YES on HB 3963, so that Oregon can lead with integrity, foresight, and collaboration as we chart our course for offshore wind development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annie Merrill
Marine Conservation Manager
Oregon Shores

In Oregon, the beaches belong to the people.

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