



June 9, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Klein  
Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Klein,

We write to share the considerable concern that we continue to hear from Oregon's coastal communities about the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) ongoing process for identifying wind energy areas and preparing lease sales for floating offshore wind off the Oregon coast. Industrial-scale floating offshore wind is a nascent technology both inside and outside of the United States, and it is important that we fully evaluate the impacts that it may have on ecosystems, the economy, and ratepayers before moving forward. We ask that BOEM pause its leasing process in order to provide Governor Tina Kotek's administration with additional time to consult with Tribal governments, engage stakeholders in coastal communities, and assist BOEM in identifying, understanding, and responding to local concerns.

We have strongly supported the Biden Administration's work to take bold action to combat climate change and improve our nation's energy security while creating high-quality jobs. Oregon has been a leader in adopting ambitious climate programs that strongly support and align with the Administration's goals. Floating offshore wind on Oregon's south coast could be a key component of a diverse energy portfolio to realize these goals. It would also create middle-class jobs and diversify and bolster the region's natural resource-dependent economy. However, any offshore wind project must be done responsibly and in collaboration with local communities, including fishing and Tribal stakeholders.

The BOEM process has created significant friction with coastal communities, the fishing industry, and Tribal governments. Many valid questions and concerns remain about floating offshore wind. These must be addressed transparently before we can support proceeding further towards any substantial development decisions on the Oregon coast. Additional time would allow the State of Oregon to develop a more coordinated approach with the federal government to provide a deeper appreciation of community interests, to engage in meaningful Tribal consultation, and to develop opportunities to avoid and mitigate potential conflicts.



As part of the State of Oregon's efforts to develop a more coordinated approach, we ask that BOEM provide transparent and easily understood information about how the agency is identifying wind energy areas, including analysis on whether areas beyond 1300 meters in depth could be suitable. Fully and transparently examining all opportunities that may exist to reduce conflict with other ocean users is important to achieve successful deployment of wind technology on the Oregon coast and durable partnerships in the years ahead.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and stakeholders in Oregon to ensure the best possible outcome in this process.

Sincerely,

Tina Kotek  
Governor of Oregon

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress