

CITY OF COOS BAY

Resolution 22-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF COOS BAY TO SEND THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM) AND THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (ODOE) A LETTER WITH RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY.

WHEREAS the Coos Bay City Council (Council) supports responsible and sustainable economic development projects which benefit the citizens of our community; and

WHEREAS the Council recognizes renewable energy is an important part of Oregon and the nation's energy portfolio, and we appreciate the efforts that are being made to make our energy system more resilient and diversified; and

WHEREAS the Council recognizes our commercial and recreational fishing fleets are a critical component of the economy of the Oregon Coast, and we are deeply concerned about potential impacts to this industry; and

WHEREAS the Council believes certain steps should be taken to ensure that existing ocean users and stakeholders are protected in the process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council requests the following considerations in order to ensure that our current ocean users, stakeholders, and marine life are protected:

1. The offshore leasing process needs to be transparent and inclusive. We would ask that BOEM engage in a more inclusive public process by bringing together stakeholders such as the fishing industry, environmentalists, coastal communities, and local, state, and federal elected officials as equal partners, with an agenda that is created in a collaborative fashion. These stakeholders would be able to review the proposed Call areas and identify areas for concern before the leases are issued.
2. Unless the stakeholder group determines otherwise, we assert that the Call areas need to be immediately moved outside of the productive fishery areas. Moving the Call areas outside of 1,300 meters will avoid the majority of the fishing activity.
3. Invest in more data to determine the impacts to the marine environment and the potential impacts to marine species, ecosystems, and habitat.
4. Provide stakeholders and the public with the potential environmental and economic impacts at the beginning of the process, instead of after the Call areas have been determined. Any community that will be impacted by offshore wind should know and fully understand the impacts before the lease is granted and not after.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon this 21st day of June 2022.

Joe Benetti, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nichole Rutherford, City Recorder