

## RESOLUTION R2122-19

### A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT BROOKINGS CALL AREA FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

- Whereas,** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has included in the Brookings Call Area the coast from the California Border to the Rogue Reef that is off the coast of Gold Beach; and
- Whereas,** The Brookings Call Area boundary begins 13.8 miles offshore Gold Beach and Brookings, Oregon, and extends to about 46 miles offshore. The eastern boundary water depth ranges from about 410 to 1,115 feet (125 to 340 meters). The area is about 46 miles in length from north to south and about 22 miles in width from east to west. The entire area is approximately 286,444 acres, or 448 square miles. It spans from the California border to just above the Rogue River Reef; and
- Whereas,** Floating offshore wind (FOSW) is an emerging type of offshore wind technology that allows wind turbines to be located in deep waters, typically at depths greater than 60 meters. The great majority of existing offshore wind projects around the world have developed in shallow waters (less than 60 meters), where conditions are more suitable for the use of a bottom-fixed off-shore wind (BFOSW) design similar to land-based wind that directly anchors wind towers into place. Floating offshore wind uses a different anchoring design consisting of floating platforms and mooring lines that indirectly anchor wind towers to the seafloor in deep water locations, like the ocean waters off Oregon's coast; and
- Whereas,** The development of wind turbines for such uses and environment is a nascent industry. The growth in the size and generative ability of wind turbines have evolved from the generation of 500KW in 1991 to a recent 15MW turbine in 2021. The size of wind turbines have increased accordingly, from the Vestas V39 at 197ft. (60m) to the Vestas V236 856ft. (261m), turbine only. FOSW projects affix wind towers to floating platforms that are anchored to seafloors with mooring lines, a design that's more complicated and still emerging; and
- Whereas,** The term Brookings Call Area is deceptive in that the public does not realize it includes Pistol River and Gold Beach within its large territory; and
- Whereas,** The BOEM is closing public comment on June 28, 2022; and
- Whereas,** The BOEM only came to Gold Beach on June 17, 2022, giving the public a twelve-day window to respond to their presentation; and

- Whereas,** At the June 17, 2022, meeting, many of the questions the public asked were unable to be answered; and
- Whereas,** The BOEM plans to lease the ocean areas for large scale wind turbines that have never been used before in such deep water environments and conditions, being, in effect, an experiment of a heavy industrial use of our coastline that has never been used for heavy industrial purposes; and
- Whereas,** All of the Brookings Call Area is a strong tourism area, fishing area, and hosts many of the Oregon State Scenic Byways, Corridors, Parks and Trails; and
- Whereas,** This experimental wind turbine project is likely to create debris that may damage critical habitat on the reef and coastline and pollute our heretofore pristine public beaches; and
- Whereas,** It is not known how or where the electricity from the turbines will be transmitted to the electrical grid onshore. A larger FOSW project would require correspondingly larger amounts of new or upgraded offshore and onshore transmission infrastructure consisting of transmission lines and substations that could have huge impacts on the local ocean environment; and
- Whereas,** The BOEM has no studies to show the impact on tourism or local economy; and
- Whereas,** The BOEM requested specific reasons be provided in opposition to the Call Area, but did not provide the necessary information to the public as many elements are still conceptual in nature; and
- Whereas,** The ocean provides an environmentally sustainable economic resource to our communities that is co-managed to ensure a local, regional, and global food source; and
- Whereas,** It is unknown what the impact of these experimental turbines will have on the ocean's complex food web; and
- Whereas,** The energy that might be created with these experimental FOSW projects will most likely not be used in our local area, but will be sold to the highest bidder; and
- Whereas,** Our current provider of electricity locally is Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative, and their energy is already created from 90% renewable resources; and
- Whereas,** The blades to the turbines are made of an inorganic matter, typically resin, i.e. plastic, that are not recyclable. They have a 20-25 year life and will either be left floating in the ocean to come ashore, or buried in a landfill, which would not be local as there are no local landfills. The cost of dealing with the garbage will be high; and

- Whereas,** There is no guarantee that the leases will include the decommissioning and complete clean-up of the FOSW projects; and
- Whereas,** There is no assurance that the turbines and the cable infrastructure will withstand an earthquake or tsunami that is predicted to occur on the Oregon Coast; and
- Whereas,** This development could increase regional vulnerability by creating a potential target for terrorists or military action in the Call Area that does not currently exist. The Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense should be consulted before this Call Area is finalized.
- Whereas,** The FOSW project will be sited in one of earth's four nutrient rich eastern ocean boundary upwelling zones that supports marine life, fisheries, migratory seabirds, and marine mammals, and the adverse impacts to these ecosystems have not been fully vetted.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the City Council of Gold Beach requests that the Brookings Call Area be removed from the BOEM considered sites. If this is not possible, we request more studies to determine the impacts on the local environment, economy, scenic quality, tourism, and local wildlife and ocean species. We request that the public input time be extended 180 days after the completion of these studies are published and publicly available. Lastly, for the BOEM to require lease holders to address the concerns of the public, including, but not limited to:

- Where and how will the cables come to shore?
- Where will the power converters, transition stations and other apparatus be located?
- What travel restrictions will be required by the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense?
- What written guarantees will the local communities have that any environmental disaster will be handled expeditiously and be fully paid for by the lease holder or BOEM?

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLD BEACH, COUNTY OF CURRY, STATE OF OREGON, and EFFECTIVE THIS 23<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2022.

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Tamie Kaufman, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Jodi Fritts, City Administrator/Recorder