



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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June 21, 2022

Dr. Whitney Hauer, Renewable Energy Specialist
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Strategic Resources
760 Paseo Camarillo (Suite 102)
Camarillo, California 93010

RE: Federal Rulemaking BOEM-2022-0009

Dear Dr. Hauer:

The Coos County Board of Commissioners (Board) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the published Call for Information and Nominations (Call) to obtain public input on potential wind energy leasing activities in federal waters off the coast of Southern Oregon. We understand that the publication of the Call in the Federal Register initiated a sixty (60) day public comment period which ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on June 28, 2022.

The Board recognizes that 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. We also recognize that our commercial and recreational fishing fleets are a critical piece of our economic, cultural, and social fabric on the Oregon coast, and we are deeply concerned about potential impacts to this industry. We wish to express our concerns about this process of creating Call areas without an opportunity to understand fully the potential impacts to fisheries, the environment, and protected species. The Board believes that the BOEM leasing process is fundamentally flawed and creates tension between the local communities and the offshore wind industry, instead of allowing us to work together to minimize the impacts of offshore wind.

The Coos County Board of Commissioners requests the following considerations in order to ensure that our current ocean users, stakeholders, and marine life are protected prior to offering leases for offshore wind industry:

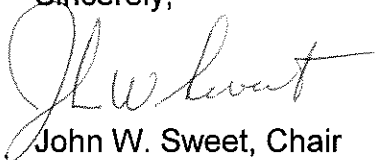
1. The offshore leasing process needs to be more transparent and inclusive. We would ask that BOEM engage in a more inclusive public process by bringing together stakeholders such as the fishing industry, environmentalists, coastal communities, and local, state, and federal elected officials as equal 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. Until this data is generated, any large-scale projects should be avoided, as we cannot possibly understand the impacts that a large-scale project would create.
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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John W. Sweet, Chair



Melissa Cribbins, Commissioner



Robert "Bob" Main, Commissioner