

Pacific County **COMMISSIONERS**

Lisa Olsen, District #1
Frank Wolfe, District #2
Mike Runyon, District #3

June 28, 2022

Director Amanda Lefton
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

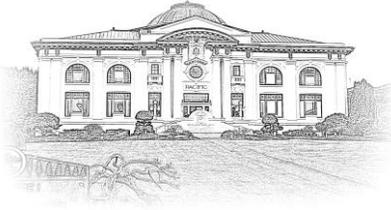
Dear Director Lefton,

We are writing to you today with concerns over the potential for floating offshore wind facilities in the federal waters off of the State of Washington, specifically, but also along the entire west coast. Our concerns not only involve the action itself but also the process, which seems to be awkward and very difficult to navigate, especially if one has a dissenting opinion regarding said action and process.

We, along with our U.S. Representatives Herrera Beutler and Kilmer from WA State and DeFazio, Wyden and Schrader from Oregon State, urge BOEM to take a thorough, systematic, fully-inclusive, and collaborative approach to ensure that economic, environmental, and safety impacts of floating offshore wind facilities along the entire Pacific Coast are understood and mitigated before moving any further in the siting process. It is short-sighted at best and negligent at worst to develop floating offshore wind projects along the Pacific coast piecemeal without studying and planning for the system as a whole. And, in our opinion, a bad idea all the way around from the information currently at our disposal.

We also agree with our Representatives that a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for wind energy off the entire Pacific Coast should be done before any applications are considered. It seems that this process is moving much too quickly and possibly being pushed through for the sake of establishing 'alternative renewable energy' at the potential disastrous impacts on sustainable fishing operations and the economies of the coastal communities. Many of the remaining fishing enterprises off the WA, OR and northern CA coasts are intertwined among the same fishermen partaking in different fisheries in order to sustain their businesses, and impacts in one area could significantly damage options as a whole.

The Pacific County Board of Commissioners has met with our State Department of Ecology and NOAA several times over the last 3 years or so trying to get a seat at the table regarding this process. We were trying to do this in preparation of there being some sort of unsolicited request to site these wind operations in our coastal waters but have been pretty much stonewalled in this process. Now that these requests have initiated, we would request that there be a Washington Task Force formed very soon, to be briefed and have access to the process as it unfolds. We have noticed that the Oregon Task Force is comprised completely of government officials/employees and we would request that our local fishing industry be represented on such a committee as well as our local Public Utility District and other potentially relevant stakeholders in this process.



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In closing, while we are writing to advocate for a seat at the table during this process, it is only because we realize said process will continue with or without us involved. Ultimately, we are opposed to any siting of offshore wind along our coast for many reasons, some of which are the concerns stated in this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Lisa Olsen, Chairperson

Frank Wolfe, Commissioner

Mike Runyon, Commissioner