

June 21, 2022

Mr. Douglas Boren  
Pacific Regional Director  
US Department of the Interior  
Pacific OCS Region  
760 Paseo Camarillo  
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dear Director Boren:

The Port of Astoria Commission is concerned about the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) plan to establish an offshore wind energy program off the coast of Oregon and its potential negative impacts on the fishing/seafood industry.

The Port of Astoria believes certain steps should be taken to ensure that existing ocean users and stakeholders are protected in the process of offshore wind energy development. Harvesters, processors, and marine suppliers all benefit from Oregon's sustainable fisheries. Annual fishery landings total more than 170 million pounds in Astoria alone, and the seafood industry supports thousands of jobs in coastal communities in Astoria and throughout Oregon. The value of Oregon's fishery landings is well over \$150,000,000 annually. Moreover, a fishing dollar turns over many times in the community, and an authentic working waterfront is a tremendous draw for the tourism industry.

The Port of Astoria recommends a greater emphasis on outreach to the various stakeholders potentially impacted by this plan, including fishermen, buyers, processors, retailers, restaurants and consumers. We urge caution in developing large scale wind turbine farms until all the risks to marine mammals, sea birds, fisheries and the marine environment are clearly understood. Additionally, we urge BOEM to conduct a comprehensive peer reviewed economic analysis (as part of an EIS) focused on the potential economic impacts to coastal communities and the state of Oregon, and relevant tradeoffs.

The Pacific Northwest is unique in the frequency, strength and duration of storms. Given this dynamic, it would be prudent to consider a small demonstration site (similar to PacWave) to test offshore wind technology. It is unclear whether the technology for floating offshore wind can withstand the harsh elements of the Pacific Ocean and prove viable in the long term.

The Port of Astoria Commission recognizes that offshore wind energy may be an important component to our state's transition to cleaner energy, however, we urge stronger community outreach at the local level, particularly with those groups most significantly impacted.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Frank Spence

Commission President, Port of Astoria