



Port of Brookings Harbor

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Board of Commissioners

Richard Heap, President
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Kenneth Range
Larry Jonas

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: Oregon Coast – Offshore Wind Energy

Dear Dr. Hauer,

The Port of Brookings Harbor is the busiest recreational Port on the Oregon Coast, generating more than 33,000 boat trips annually and is one of the most active harbors for Chinook salmon. The Port is an important commercial fishing harbor with over 5,000 annual visits by commercial fishing boats. Because of its location and geographical configuration, the Port is the safest bar on the Oregon Coast with more than 280 passable days per year.

With Curry County surpassing the State and the US in unemployment, fishing and recreation are key components of our economy.

Our Port Commission recently met in a regular session and again in a special session to discuss BOEM's ongoing efforts regarding offshore wind energy, after hearing from several stakeholder's concerns.

The outcome is the attached resolution from the Port of Brookings Harbor Commission addressing some of the concerns and providing some recommendations regarding offshore wind energy on the Oregon Coast.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at (541)-469-2218.

Sincerely,

Gary Dehlinger
Port Manager

Cc: Jason Sierman, Oregon Department of Energy
Governor Kate Brown's Office
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Peter DeFazio
State Senator Dallas Heard
State Representative David Brock Smith

**PORT OF BROOKINGS HARBOR
CURRY COUNTY, OREGON**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PORT OF BROOKINGS HARBOR
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 Port of Brookings Harbor is a port district, organized and operated under the provisions of ORS Chapter 777, and has the authority to adopt resolutions; and

WHEREAS the Port of Brookings Harbor Commission recognizes that offshore wind energy may be an important component to our state's transition to cleaner energy; and

WHEREAS the Port of Brookings Harbor also values the commercial and recreational fishing fleets, and recognizes their significant economic contributions to the national, state, regional and local economy; and

WHEREAS harvesters, processors, marine suppliers and more all benefit from Oregon's sustainable fisheries. Fishing-related jobs can make up upwards of 7% of earned income in the southern part of Curry County annually, and the seafood industry supports thousands of jobs in rural Oregon. A fishing dollar turns over many times in the community and an authentic working waterfront and sustainable local seafood also a tremendous draw for the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS the Port of Brookings Harbor believes certain steps should be taken to ensure that existing ocean users and stakeholders are protected in the process with the following recommendations:

1. Throughout any development process require state and federal agencies to be transparent about the process of identifying and implementing offshore wind developments by embracing the "Oregon Way" public process that includes the Oregon fishing industry, environmentalists, coastal communities, and our state and federal political and congressional delegations, sit down with BOEM as equal partners, develop a rational process with authentic discussion, conduct the requisite Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis, analyze the real costs and benefits, evaluate test sites, and develop a rational decision that minimize costs and maximize benefits to Oregon and the nation.
2. Move all Oregon call areas outside of 1,300 meters to avoid displacing current sustainable fishery activities – these fisheries have great importance to Curry County and Oregon's economies.
3. Enact a moratorium on developing large scale wind turbine farms until all the risks to marine mammals, sea birds, fisheries and the marine environment are clearly understood.
4. Meet all National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and conduct a comprehensive programmatic EIS before leases are granted instead of at the end of the process. This includes cumulative impacts and transmission line impacts. Include an analysis of the transmission lines that will bring the energy to shore and examine the cumulative impacts to current ocean users from adjacent wind energy developments in Northern California and Washington.
5. In the absence of a comprehensive peer reviewed economic analysis (as part of an EIS) there is no real understanding of the potential economic impacts to coastal communities and the state of Oregon, and relevant tradeoffs. If we assumed that the Call areas were completely developed the loss of Oregon fishing revenues may total 10-20% or more of today's value. That would equate to

an annual loss of \$18-\$35 million in ex-vessel value and \$45-\$90 million in local and state household income. Over thirty years (the equivalent of the life expectancy of a windmill) that would equate to the loss of more than a \$500 million to \$1 billion in ex-vessel value and \$1.4 to \$2.7 billion in household income.


6. Given the considerable fishery values generated from the call areas, the productivity of the California Current System, and the potential impacts to marine species and ecosystems/habitats, slow down the process to fully assess the significant risks and uncertainties.
7. Consider a small demonstration site (like Pac Wave) to test the technology. Floating offshore wind does not currently exist in operation in the United States, and it is unclear whether the technology can withstand the harsh elements of the Pacific Ocean.

NOW THEREFORE, THE PORT OF BROOKINGS HARBOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

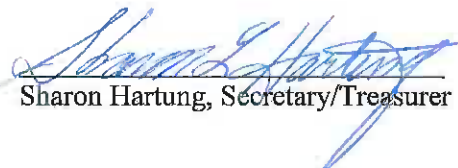
The General Manager of the Port is directed to send a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) highlighting the above listed recommendations.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED and made effective the same day by the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the Port of Brookings Harbor this 21st day of June, 2022.

ATTEST:



Joseph Speir, Vice-President



Sharon Hartung, Secretary/Treasurer