

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 22, 2022

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

Dear Director Lefton,

We have concerns with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) engagement process for the consideration of offshore wind energy in the coastal waters of the Pacific Ocean that could have negative impacts on this region's fishing industry and our coastal communities. Local fishing businesses and residents are aware that BOEM has joined with the states of California and Oregon to determine the future of wind projects off the coasts of these states. In addition to BOEM's recent Call for Information and Nominations (Call) for two potential wind energy leases off the coast of southern Oregon, an unsolicited bid was announced for offshore wind development off the coast of Grays Harbor County in Washington.

We have heard from many of our fishermen up and down the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California who have expressed frustrations with BOEM's outreach and engagement process. They believe their concerns are not being heard, and not taken seriously by the BOEM officials. We have also heard from tribes with concerns regarding offshore wind turbines' potential impact on their fishing access, rights and resources.

Many fishermen based in Washington and Oregon have invested in permits and boats to fish in waters off Oregon and California to harvest Oregon pink shrimp, Dungeness crab, Pacific Whiting, many groundfish species, Albacore, salmon, and California squid. Any offshore wind project in Washington, Oregon or California waters should go through an extensive federal review process to fully assess any impacts these developments will have on our region. The review process should not be shortened or expedited, and it must account for all the environmental and economic effects that are likely to occur.

We ask that you begin by engaging our coastal communities directly, namely those whose livelihoods depend on sustainable fisheries. Without that input, it is impossible to make informed decisions. To that end, BOEM must do a better job of addressing the concerns of our fisherman and fishing industry, as well as our tribes and other community stakeholders, before any offshore wind project should be implemented off Pacific Northwest shores. We request more meaningful outreach and stakeholder engagement with BOEM's offshore wind process, and we stand ready to help you make connections to our constituents to ensure this can occur if needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress