

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2023

The Honorable Elizabeth Klein
Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Klein,

Thank you for instituting a pause on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s Oregon floating offshore wind leasing process to provide Governor Kotek's administration additional time to consult with stakeholder groups and coastal communities. We write to continue to urge you to make sure all voices are elevated and considered in the planning and analysis phase of the offshore wind leasing process in Oregon. Deploying clean energy is imperative to move our country forward and meet our climate goals, but it's also important to have robust community engagement throughout the entire process to ensure any project is done responsibly. In order to facilitate meaningful engagement, we ask that you specifically plan and facilitate in-person meetings in communities that would be impacted by the development of wind energy off of Oregon's South Coast if you move forward with the leasing process.

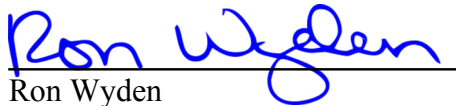
In June of 2022, members of the Oregon delegation wrote to BOEM expressing concern that Tribes, coastal communities, and fishing communities had been left out of the initial planning process. A year later, in June of 2023, the Oregon delegation reiterated many of these same concerns in a letter to BOEM sharing that these communities had not been adequately consulted. While your response letter in July of 2023 explained a number of efforts BOEM is working on to engage and inform the public, we remain concerned the process is not adequately engaging all voices in the planning process. It is critical that BOEM develops a deep appreciation of all community interests and fully studies every opportunity to reduce conflict with all ocean users before making substantial development decisions.

We understand that you are considering releasing draft wind energy areas for public review and comment and that you believe this will help to provide additional transparency on how you intend to mitigate conflicts as we requested in the letter. Following the release of the draft wind energy areas, we urge you to proactively solicit input on the draft plan during the formal comment period and answer questions in a timely fashion to allow for informed comments. We also request that you extend the comment period to 60 days. We request that you set up three public, in-person meetings in Oregon coastal communities to hear directly from them. During these meetings, we ask that you

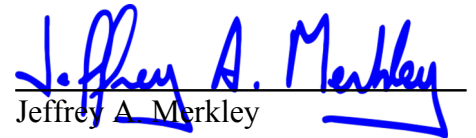
share information of how input will be evaluated and incorporated, and how participants can be kept engaged and informed throughout the entire planning process.

We stand ready to support all efforts for robust public engagement as BOEM explores the opportunity for wind development off the coast and what that would mean for Oregon's communities.


Sincerely,



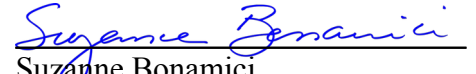
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress