

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2024

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

Dear Director Klein,

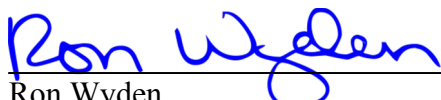
Thank you for your efforts to facilitate public engagement throughout the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) process to develop Wind Energy Areas off the coast of Oregon. We specifically appreciate that BOEM facilitated in-person engagement opportunities regarding the proposals for draft wind energy areas in the communities of Brookings, Gold Beach, and Coos Bay in the fall of 2023. However, many of the communities that will be impacted by wind energy communicated to my office that the format of in-person events did not allow for a full and healthy exchange of ideas and concerns. We also appreciate that BOEM extended the comment period on draft wind energy areas to allow communities more time to submit comments and concerns. However, the potential impacts to communities in Oregon from the proposed action warrant additional public engagement to ensure any future development of the Oregon Coast is fully informed by the interests of local communities.

On February 13, 2024, BOEM finalized two wind energy areas off the coast of Oregon, the Coos Bay Wind Energy Area and the Brookings Wind Energy Area. On February 14, BOEM posted a notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment and is collecting comments on the scope of the analysis document that is needed until March 15, 2024. We write to continue to urge you to maximize public engagement opportunities by extending the comment period beyond the 30 days provided.

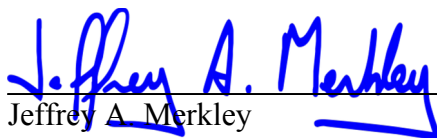
Tribes, the fishing community, and others throughout Oregon's coastal communities are currently working to develop comments that will inform the Environmental Assessment for the Wind Energy Areas, including impacts to the ocean ecosystem, environment, fisheries, viewsheds, and other important resources. We request an extension of the comment period to allow for robust comments that will set the most complete stage for future analysis. We believe that an extension will serve the Tribes, coastal and fishing communities, and ultimately BOEM by allowing ample time to prepare meaningful scoping comments.

We stand ready to support all efforts for significant public involvement as BOEM navigates the opportunity for wind development off the coast and the implications it might have for Oregon communities.

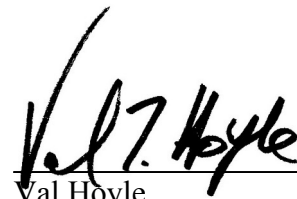
Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress