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April 20, 2015

To: Representative Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment, and Committee Members

RE: Statement for the record of Hillary Barbour, Policy Director, Renewable Northwest, for April 21, 2015 hearing on HB 2216.

Throughout its history, Renewable Northwest has worked with clean energy leaders to bring emerging technologies through their research and development to commercial development stages. Our organization is pleased to see offshore wind moving forward both nationally and in Oregon.

Recognizing the potential for jobs, clean energy, and a reinvigorated economy this industry is poised to bring, the federal government has signaled its willingness to invest millions of dollars in pilot projects, including the West Coast.

The US Department of Energy estimates the offshore wind industry will be a significant economic engine, creating jobs in construction, manufacturing, and operations. As pilot projects develop and industry supply chains grow, Oregon has the potential to become a central hub of economic development for this industry.

Offshore wind is a promising renewable energy resource, and Oregon is once again positioned to be a national leader in developing this industry in the United States. It is an exciting piece of our sustainable, clean energy future.