

KATE BROWN
GOVERNOR



January 29, 2019

Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Governor's Office Support for Senate Bill 256

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and members of the Committee,

The Governor's Natural Resources Office writes in support of Senate Bill 256, which repeals the sunset date for the moratorium on oil, gas and sulfur leasing in Oregon's territorial sea.

Oregonians enjoy tremendous economic and cultural prosperity from the Oregon Coast and sovereign Native American Tribes are closely tied to coastal lands and waters. Furthermore, the \$2 billion tourism and recreation industry and \$320 million fishing industry support over 25,000 jobs.

Oregonians also oppose oil and gas development on our iconic coastline. In 2010 the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3613, which prohibited oil and gas leasing in Oregon's Territorial Sea until 2020. On October 24th, 2018, The Governor's Office issued Executive Order 18-28, opposing the exploration and production of oil and gas off the Oregon Coast, including the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and preventing the development of any infrastructure associated with offshore oil and gas drilling.

In April 2017, the federal government enacted policy encouraging offshore oil and gas exploration and production in federal waters on the OCS, including federal waters off the Oregon Coast. This federal policy directly threatens Oregonian values, and it is the responsibility to state lawmakers to protect local communities from federal decrees that suppress the economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of the Oregon Coast.

Oregon has been a consistent leader in environmental justice and stewardship, and legislative action is imperative in solidifying a prosperous future for our coast. Our marine fisheries, iconic scenery, and pristine environment are true embodiments of what makes the Oregon Coast worth defending.

The Governor's Office urges the Committee to support Senate Bill 256.

Sincerely,

Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Manager
Office of Governor Kate Brown