



28 January 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow
Environment and Natural Resources, Chair
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 256 Support

Dear Senator Dembrow and Honorable Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of our statewide membership in Oregon and our thousands of supporters, volunteers and ocean users, Surfrider Foundation wishes to express our strong support for Senate Bill 256. Surfrider Foundation, is a powerful grassroots network of ocean advocates dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches. Senate Bill 256 reinstates Oregon's commitment to protecting our ocean economy by reinstating and strengthening Oregon's moratorium on oil, gas and sulfur exploration and drilling in our ocean. The legislation commemorates and reinforces Goal 19, Oregon's ocean planning goal that prioritizes protection of ocean renewable resources over the exploration and extraction of non-renewable resources. Finally, Senate Bill 256 speaks to the thousands of Oregonians, businesses, organizations, and local elected officials alike that have taken many actions to oppose oil/gas drilling and exploration as their jobs, livelihoods and way of life depend on a healthy ocean economy.

Following the federal administration's proposal to open up 90% of the continental shelf for oil and gas lease sales, including off Oregon's coast, Surfrider's Oregon membership and volunteer network organized a strong and unified bi-partisan approach to protecting Oregon's ocean through a campaign that represents all of Oregon. This included:

Municipal and Port Resolutions: Throughout 2018 Surfrider worked with the cities of Port Orford, Newport, Lincoln City, Toledo, Yachats, and Gold Beach to pass resolutions opposing any future offshore oil drilling. The Siletz Tribal Council and Ports of Toledo and Newport have also [passed resolutions](#) in opposition of oil and gas drilling. Lastly, the entire Coastal Zone Management Association formally support SB 256, representing the lion's share of ports, cities and counties along the coast.

State and Federal Leadership Support: Oregon's federal delegation joined our coastal caucus at the Coastal Economic Summit to hold a [special press conference](#) in support of protecting our coast from oil and gas drilling.

Coastal Business Support: Through our [sign the surfboard tour](#) for businesses along the coast, from Brookings to Astoria Surfrider spoke with and signed on well over a 100 businesses to the Business Alliance to Protect the Pacific.

Organizational Support: At the time of this letter, over 27 statewide organizations and groups have signed on in support of this bill, which we will have submitted separately. Over 300 individuals attended the federal comment [rally and hearing](#).

Oregon's ocean is a special place, which many of us depend on for our jobs, livelihoods and way of life. The attached one pager details some metrics around Oregon's coastal economy and further detail of why our ocean resources do not mix with oil and gas drilling activities. We urge the committee to vote "yes" on SB 256 in furthering protection of Oregon's ocean resources for our and future generations to come.

Sincerely,



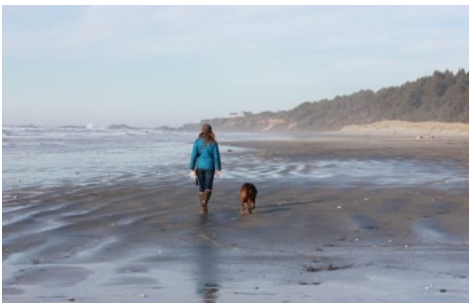
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Protecting Oregon's coast from an oil spill through legislative solutions



The Oregon coast: an economic powerhouse

Oregon's beaches and ocean are world-renowned for their beauty. Not only do they draw tourists and retirees, but they are also an economic powerhouse. Fishing, tourism and recreation provide precious jobs and a way of life for our rural, coastal communities from Brookings to Astoria, and Oregon's fisheries, rugged coastline and public beaches are a major part of the entire state's identity.

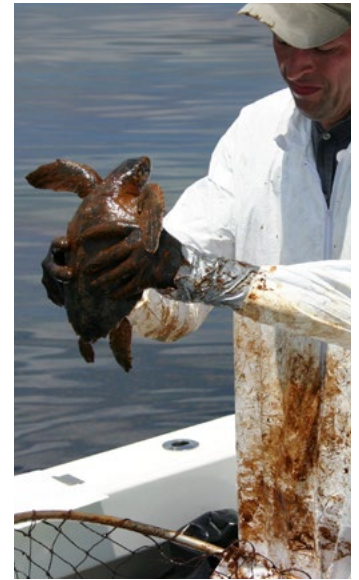
The risk of an oil spill

In January 2018, the federal government released a proposal to open 90% of U.S waters—including Oregon's entire coast—to oil and gas drilling. This would undermine decades of bipartisan coastal protection. In 2019, Oregon's statutory moratorium on oil and gas drill in our nearshore will also expire. This, on top of the federal proposal, threatens the

many coastal businesses and industries that depend upon a healthy ocean and clean, oil-free beaches for survival. An oil spill would shut down commerce in fishing, tourism, and recreation, which support more than 27,500 jobs in Oregon and generate approximately \$2 billion in gross domestic product. We must act now to protect our jobs, livelihoods, and the place we call home from the threat posed by drilling off our coast.

[Learn more >](#)

We must act now to protect our jobs, livelihoods, and the place we call home from the threat posed by drilling off our coast.



A solution through legislative action

To protect Oregon's coastal businesses and residents from the devastating impacts of an oil spill, the state must ensure oil and gas drilling will never happen off our coast. That's why legislation has been introduced to limit drilling activities and infrastructure within state waters.

Specifically, this legislation will:

1. Repeal the sunset on the moratorium on oil, gas and sulfur leasing in Oregon's territorial sea, and
2. Prohibit the Oregon Department of State Lands from leasing any of the submerged and submersible lands within the territorial sea for:
 - (a) the exploration, development or production of oil, gas or sulfur in the territorial sea; or
 - (b) activities in furtherance of the exploration, development or production of oil, gas or sulfur within federal waters adjacent to the territorial sea.

The case for acting now

A **2015 survey** by DHM research found that the coast is one of the things Oregonians value most about our state. Oregon's beaches are the pride of our state, and the ocean is a major economic engine—from a bait and tackle shop to a bed and breakfast to a whale watching charter boat owner. The federal proposal has met with steep opposition, with over a dozen cities and Ports in Oregon passing resolutions to oppose oil and gas drilling. Extending Oregon's moratorium on oil and gas drilling will prevent undue risk to tribes, coastal fishing, tourism and recreation industries, and Oregon's world-class marine ecosystem.

For more information, please contact:

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