



## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

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To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: March 5, 2019

RE: Senate Bill 256

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members and supporters in Oregon, I am pleased to offer this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 256.

As an organization with a long history working to protect Oregon's waters and wildlife, we believe that SB 256 is worthy of your support. As you know, this legislation would repeal the sunset on the moratorium on drilling for oil, gas, or sulfur in Oregon's territorial waters. Given the devastating impacts that an offshore oil spill could have on coastal Oregon's economy – whether through recreation, tourism, fishing, or crabbing – the risks to the livelihoods of our state's citizens is simply too great to allow such activities here. In addition, we have seen on far too many occasions around the world the ruinous effects of oil spills on wildlife and aquatic life; we cannot permit such devastation to happen in our state.

Oregonians rightly treasure their coastline as one of the most special things about this state we call home. SB 256's provisions will help protect that resource and the economies and wildlife that depend on it now and into the future. For these reasons, we strongly support Senate Bill 256 and we urge this Committee to do the same. Thank you very much for considering my comments and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.