

30 March 2021

To: House Committee on Energy & Environment

Re: House Bill 3375

Dear Chair Representative Marsh, Vice-Chairs Representatives Helm and Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

I am more or less neutral on HB 3375 as I understand it simply "establishes a goal" and a "strategic plan" which, the way the state spends money, may not damage the prosperity of tax payers too much in the coming years. I do want to take a few moments of your time to play the devil's advocate, perhaps throw a little cold water on the high hopes and perhaps unrealistic expectations of the sponsors of this bill.

A bit of background. I have spent all my seventy plus years living on the Oregon coast. Additionally I spent my entire working life, numbering some fifty-eight years, going to sea, forty-seven years of which I served as a proud member of the U.S. Merchant Marine. That has provided me with, to say the least, above average experience in our own weather as well as the difficulties that can present themselves in a marine environment.

I am sure the advocates of this bill are all onboard the ideology behind so-called *green energy*. All that is needed these days to promote just about anything are to call it *sustainable*, throw in some *clean energy* rhetoric and voilà it must be a good idea! After all, it's a low-carbon future. That sort of thinking starts off with a basic premise of, if it's green, it's good. But that's laughably stupid to make such a broad generalization about complex issues.

As for the offshore platforms where all this electricity is going to come from, I want to start with the often overlooked fact by starry eyed dreamers of *clean energy*, of the production costs. Where are all those materials coming from and at what cost are they produced? Think of their *life cycle* and throw in their disposal costs at the end of their useful lifespan. Think of everything involved in the entire process of building and maintaining such a project; from the vessels that will tow, position, moor and service the platforms, the fuel required to do so, the distribution of the power, and maintenance of equipment. It is not so *green* when all is taken into account.

Tending these platforms and their related equipment in a marine environment brings its own set of problems, weather being one of the most complicating factors. Yes, there are fair weather days.

But it has been my experience that when things go really wrong it is usually not due to fair weather. I was here for the Columbus Day storm; winds at Yaquina Head peaked at 138 mph. At Cape Blanco, 145+. It was impressive. If something can float - it can sink. Poop happens.

As an aside, House Bill 2603 is currently winding its way through the legislature and the contention of that bill should also be taken into account with whatever mooring system is in this strategic plan that's come up with (as I'm sure this committee will pass this bill). Concrete blocks, for example, are no less harmful than undersea cables might be.

But what harm could establishing this goal and coming up with a strategic plan cause? After all, talk is cheap, eh.

Sincerely,



Richard Wisner