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Chairwoman Pam Marsh  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Legislature  
2021 Session

RE: HB3375: Relating to Floating Offshore Wind Energy

Chair Marsh and Committee Members

I signed up to give public comment during today's hearing but apparently there was not enough time to hear from stakeholders- which is really unfortunate and creates a situation where we do not feel that our concerns are valued or wanted.

Please accept these comments on behalf of Midwater Trawlers Cooperative (MTC). MTC is a not-for-profit trade association headquartered in Newport and we represent twenty-nine trawl catcher vessels that fish for pacific whiting and traditional groundfish off the west coast as well as in federal fisheries in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. We would like to provide some comments as they relate to HB3375 and the need to ensure that the fishing industry is meaningfully engaged in any process moving forward – federal waters off Oregon are extremely important to our industry's success.

As an example – over the last four years over 1.5 billion pounds of pacific whiting worth over \$140 million dollars has been sustainably harvested in U.S. waters adjacent to the state of Oregon. A major portion of those pounds are delivered to seafood processors in Oregon ports. Another large portion of the fish is delivered by Oregon catcher vessels to floating processors. The income generated by the harvesters in both of these sectors is spent on payroll for Oregon crew members, it is spent on boat work in Oregon shipyards, and it is spent supporting port infrastructure – fishing dollars turn over in our coastal communities many times and support thousands of Oregon jobs. Traditional trawl groundfish fisheries off Oregon are another important asset to the state. During the same four-year period, west coast trawl groundfish fisheries generated over \$200 million in ex-vessel revenue with much of that fishing activity occurring in waters off Oregon. And I'm just talking about the two fisheries my vessels are involved with – there are more than a dozen other fisheries and sectors making a living in waters off of Oregon. Even while facing many covid-related challenges, our commercial fishing industry continues to support thousands of Oregonians while many other industries have been idled. It is also important to note that these fisheries are certified as sustainable by the marine

stewardship council. That's a big deal- these are healthy stocks, sustainably managed and we are food producers for the nation and the world.

I understand that wind energy is coming to Oregon – and we are not explicitly against that development. But we are against trading good fishing jobs for new wind-energy jobs. And our past experience with Principal Power clearly demonstrated that the energy companies and even many of our legislators did not care about fishing jobs. You can't just fish anywhere. There are mandatory and voluntary closed areas already off Oregon. There are buried cables. There are strict regulations in place to protect certain habitats and species. And then there's the fish – which are constantly moving. Those of us involved with fishing are facing a new administration's goal of closing an additional 30% of the ocean to commercial fishing to combat climate change even though there is no science linking the two and that is now coupled with the recently announced new goal of generating 30,000 megawatts of wind energy in our nation's oceans during the next nine years.

It is not as simple as to say – these projects will be twenty miles offshore and can co-exist with fisheries – especially if you don't understand the fisheries and how they operate. All available information indicates that 3 gigawatts, which equates to 3,000 megawatts could easily take up a minimum of 250 square miles of space – a space 3 times the size of Washington DC – and that doesn't include whatever vehicle will connect these installations and deliver the energy to shore.

So, my main message that I want to convey is that there are thousands of families in Oregon who rely on commercial fishing for their livelihoods. There are thousands of Oregonians employed because of commercial fishing. Rural coastal communities are sustained in large part by commercial fishing. In Lincoln County alone- where I live – commercial fishing related activities have traditionally made up close to 20% of the earned income in the county annually. I would argue that percentage is much, much larger during the pandemic. Any move to incorporate wind energy off of Oregon – even out of site from shore- must include meaningful engagement with the fishing industry. Not a one-off "I'll take your feedback and check the box that I did outreach" which is what occurred with Principal Power. We need to ensure authentic engagement with this critically important sector. MTC and our partners stand ready to be a part of that engagement and help decision-makers communicate with the appropriate industry representatives. Under the Principal Power example, company execs thought talking with one person in one area of the coast was sufficient- which demonstrates how little the company understood about the ocean users off Oregon. So, let us help you be successful in your endeavors and come up with win-win scenarios versus pitting Oregon's historical fishing businesses against the newcomer wind energy companies.

Thanks for the opportunity to present these comments and I can be reached at 541-272-4544 or [heathermunromann@gmail.com](mailto:heathermunromann@gmail.com) to provide more information or answer any questions.

Field Code Changed

Sincerely,



Heather Mann  
Midwater Trawlers Cooperative