

12 May 2021

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: House Bill 3375 A

Dear Chair Senator Beyer, Vice-Chair Senator Findley, and members of the Committee:

I am more or less neutral on HB 3375A 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 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 of them serving in the U. S. Merchant Marine. That experience has provided me with, to say the least, above average knowledge of our own weather and particularly the difficulties that can—and do—present themselves in a marine environment.

I am sure the advocates of this bill are all onboard the ideology behind the 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, it it's green, it's good. But that's laughably stupid to make such broad generalizations about an issue as complex as this.

As for the offshore platforms where all this electricity is going to come from I want to start with a fact often overlooked starry-eyed dreamers of *clean energy* - productions costs.

Where are all the materials to fabricate offshore platforms coming from and at what coast are they produced? Think of their total *life cycle* and throw in disposal costs at the end of their useful life span. Think of everything involved in the entire process of building and maintaining such a project. From the vessels that tow, position, moor and service the platforms (and the fuel required to do so) to the distribution of power and maintenance of equipment. It is not so *green* after all components of the project are 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. However it has been my experience that when things go very wrong it is usually not due to fair weather. I was at Yaquina Bay for the Columbus Day storm. Winds at Yaquina Head peaked at 138

mph. At Cape Blanco, 145+. It was impressive. Here's a reminder; if something can float. It can sink. Poop happens.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner