

The South Coast Development Council, Inc.

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The South Coast Development Council's mission is to promote and support businesses that provide quality jobs through responsible development on Oregon's South Coast.



June 12, 2023

Oregon Senate Committee on Rules

Dear Senate Rules Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the South Coast Development Council, Inc. in support of Senate Bill 678, relating to offshore wind, and declaring an emergency. This bill incentivizes communities to encourage offshore wind energy-related projects by retaining the benefits from said projects in their communities.

Concerns about offshore wind's effects on the fishing industry along the South Coast remain prevalent among the population, and there is a strong belief that offshore wind will affect the industry and our local economy negatively. Ensuring benefits related to and coming from offshore wind projects remain within the region of a project will help address existing concerns associated. This bill will enable each region to mitigate, offset, or otherwise avoid potential adverse outcomes within existing industries by reinvesting financial benefits from offshore wind projects while improving the electrical grid's resiliency and Oregon's energy independence.

The South Coast Development Council, Inc. supports economic development in our region. Offshore wind will improve our region's economy, resilience, and independence. However, it should not be done at the expense of those who reside here's livelihoods. SB 678 intends to address this by ensuring the benefits of offshore wind projects remain within the communities housing them.

Sincerely,

David Milliron
Board Chair

