



February 7, 2024

Representative Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business and Labor
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4080

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Sosa and Elmer, and members of the committee,

My name is Lorne Bulling, and I am the Political Coordinator for the Ironworkers Local 29. Local 29 represents more than 1,700 journey-level workers and apprentices across Oregon and Southwestern Washington. Our members build the bridges, roads, commercial spaces, and green energy infrastructure that society relies on, while our registered apprenticeship program trains the diverse workforce of the future we need.

We are in strong support of HB 4080. The bill is an important signal for the federal government and the stakeholders interested in offshore wind—the federal government needs to know that Oregon is committed to developing a roadmap that is inclusive, and community driven and then when, and if these projects come to Oregon, they are done to the highest quality and support local workers and their families.

Furthermore, the Oregon Legislature has set the goal of 100% green energy in Oregon by 2040, with projects being built under strong labor standards through HB 2021 (2021). Offshore wind is essential to Oregon being able to reach our green energy goals. And as other energy systems transition away, and energy demands grow with increased economic activity, we need to make sure we fight for workers and help to support them in this transition to new jobs created in the green energy sector. The Ironworkers and our affiliated apprenticeship programs across the country have been at the forefront of developing the workforce for this industry. Including a Global Wind Organization (GWO) certified offshore wind training facility in the Mid-Atlantic, and we are in the process of creating a west coast GWO training facility. We have a geographically diverse workforce, and about a third of our workforce is made up of women, people of color, Veterans, members of historically disadvantaged community members, or a combination of these groups.

HB 4080 will help to ensure that impacted communities' voices are heard, and the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management understands the Oregon Way and what Oregon values can and should mean in the development of offshore wind.

The Ironworkers Local 29 strongly encourages your support of HB 4080.

Lorne Bulling
Political Coordinator, Ironworkers Local 29