



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,

I am a member of the Ironworkers Local 29 and I am writing this letter asking you, the Legislature, to adopt strong labor standards for offshore wind development in Oregon. I know firsthand that the labor standards in HB 4080 will help open doors for more apprentices, women, people of color, and people who live in the surrounding areas to get into a career in the skilled trades, as well as help to diversify and strengthen the local economy.

HB 4080 does two things—first, it funds the creation of an offshore wind road map for the state. It is important to me, and to Local 29 that communities are given the chance to provide input and feedback on the potential impacts of offshore wind to the communities most impacted. These critical elements in the roadmap will ensure the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management (BOEM) makes informed and comprehensive decisions around floating offshore wind lead by a community-driven process.

Second, HB 4080 puts in place strong labor standards. In 2021, the Legislature set the ambitious goal of reaching 100% green energy by 2040 and the labor standards they expect to be used to build the infrastructure. These standards include area standard wages which are tied to the prevailing wage, employer paid healthcare and retirement benefits, apprentice utilization, diversity, equity, and inclusion goals, and more—the **Labor standards in HB 4080 are not new, and the Legislature has made it clear in the past that Oregon’s green energy future should be tied to pro-worker policies. Now, it is time for the current Legislature to continue to move forward with these same values on any future offshore wind development.**

Please support our clean energy future and family wage jobs by voting YES on HB 4080.

Name (print): Rhett Watson

Name (sign): 