



Support for HB 4080

February 7, 2024

To: Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa, Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

From: Russell Lum, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for House Bill 4080

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 4080 on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a professional association and labor union representing over 17,000 nurses and health care professionals across Oregon. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, county health departments, home health care, and more.

We urge your support of HB 4080 to establish strong Offshore Wind labor standards and to fund a roadmap that will give communities the chance to give input and receive much needed information on the potential impacts of these projects. The bill helps ensure that the state does everything we can to align these potential projects with the Oregon values of strong labor standards and robust community outreach and involvement.

Our members know that how Oregon responds to climate change has immense consequences for livability, health, and worker power. As we set up trajectories of a green economy, worker interest, community interest, tribal interest, and ecological health must all be part of the conversation. Critically, with HB 4080, as Offshore Wind development comes to Oregon, it will mean sustainable support of local economies and high-road jobs with career pathways.

This policy simply does two things:

1. Put in place strong labor standards like living wages, benefits, and workforce diversification goals that align with previous bills and federal directives
2. Establish a directive and plan to do a roadmap on offshore wind in order to solicit community input and better understand the potential impacts to Oregon

These critical elements will ensure the Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management (BOEM) makes informed and comprehensive decisions around floating offshore wind led by a community-driven process. When and if these projects come to Oregon, they will be done to the highest quality and support local workers.

Without this policy, BOEM would not understand the uniqueness of our state or what Oregon values can and should mean in the ongoing development of floating offshore wind. We encourage your support of HB 4080.

Thank you.