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Coos Bay Office: 243 S. 2nd St. Coos Bay, OR 97420 || 541- 816-0758

Re: Rogue Climate Testimony regarding HB 4080: Relating to State Policy on Offshore Wind.

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Sosa and Elmer, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 4080: Relating to State Policy on Offshore Wind.

Rogue Climate serves and works alongside Southern Oregon and South Coast communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, and communities of color, by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment. We do so through leadership development, political education, and campaigns for policies that benefit our communities. We are also very invested in the protection of the Coos Bay estuary after years of working with a wide range of community members and organizations on the South Coast to stop the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline.

Southern Oregon and South Coast communities are feeling the impacts of climate change with increasing intensity each year. In 2021, Rogue Climate organized with a state-wide coalition to pass HB 2021 “Clean Energy for All” to transition Oregon’s investor-owned utilities to 100% renewable electricity by 2040. Oregon must stay accountable to this commitment and transition away from fossil fuels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change on our state. This transition will require a combination of solutions, and there is no silver bullet to meet the demand for renewable energy. As Oregon implements our climate goals, the state should follow the principles of a just energy transition to ensure that local communities benefit, local jobs are prioritized, existing economies can thrive, negative impacts are avoided, the sovereignty of Tribes is respected, and ecological and Tribal cultural resources are protected.

Offshore wind is one possible pathway to meet Oregon’s climate goals and address the rising demand for renewable electricity in Oregon. However, there are significant concerns from Tribes, South Coast community members, the fishing industry, and others about the potential impacts of offshore wind development and the associated port and transmission upgrades. Rogue Climate has been engaging in the offshore wind process to ensure an equitable, accessible, transparent, and data-driven process for determining whether a project should move forward. **Rogue Climate’s engagement to date does not indicate a position of support or opposition to offshore wind on the South Coast of Oregon.**

It is essential that if offshore wind development moves forward, the process must maximize benefits to the local South Coast communities that are most impacted, avoid potential harms to ecosystems and existing industries,



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protect cultural and ecological resources, create long-term jobs with good wages and benefits for South Coast communities, include meaningful consultation and prior and informed consent of Tribal Nations, and be enacted through a transparent and participatory process.

Over the past few years, Rogue Climate hosted listening sessions in Coos County to hear about community members' concerns, desires and questions about potential offshore wind development on the South Coast. One of the primary concerns that emerged is that the BOEM stakeholder engagement process has not been accessible. BOEM has not sufficiently addressed questions and concerns, and community members have not felt heard. State leadership is needed to ensure that a more robust engagement process can inform local, state and federal decisions about whether offshore wind moves forward on Oregon's South Coast.

HB 4080 takes a significant step forward in making the conversation about offshore wind in Oregon more accessible, thorough, and data-driven so that decisions can be made about whether and how to move forward. Following the example of states like Maine, an offshore wind roadmap with exit ramps should result in more transparent information sharing, opportunities for community and broader stakeholder engagement, and meaningful government-to-government consultation with Tribes. **HB 4080 does not prescribe that offshore wind will or should happen on the Oregon Coast, but rather, it would provide resources to support a more thoughtful process.**

Through this roadmap process, Rogue Climate would like to see resources, including agency staff time and funding, dedicated to identifying local and regional coastal community priorities and strategies to meet them. Stakeholders engaged in this process should be compensated for their time and travel to reduce barriers to participation. To ensure that this effort can meaningfully impact the overall offshore wind development process, the roadmap should also identify opportunities for enforceable agreements with impacted coastal communities and Tribes to ensure that developers and the state are accountable for ensuring community priorities and benefits.

HB 4080 also ensures strong labor standards in potential offshore wind development. Rogue Climate believes that family wage jobs with benefits, training opportunities, and standards protecting workers are essential to a just energy transition. HB 4080 lays out important commitments to ensure that jobs created in relation to potential offshore wind development meet these high-road labor standards. It is crucial that potential offshore wind development and associated port and transmission upgrades center jobs and training opportunities for community members local to the South Coast.



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**While we support the updates included in the -1 amendment, we would like to see the following additions to further strengthen this bill:**

- Language specifying that stakeholders impacted by associated port and transmission infrastructure development will also be consulted.
- The roadmap standards must support the protection of estuarine ecosystems and species.
- The roadmap must identify cumulative impacts on the environment, Tribal cultural resources, impacted coastal industries, and local and regional coastal communities and how they will be avoided, minimized, and mitigated during the development process.
- The roadmap must include a robust process to identify local and regional community priorities and strategies to address how those priorities will be incorporated into any FOSW development process.

Rogue Climate looks forward to continuing to be a part of the conversation to ensure a just, transparent, and accessible process for assessing offshore wind development on the Oregon Coast.

Sincerely,

Jess Grady-Benson, Organizing Director

Ashley Audycki, South Coast Coordinator