

**Testimony to the House Committee on Business and Labor re: HB 4080  
February 8, 2024****Nora Apter, Senior Program Director, Climate  
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

**Re: Support for HB 4080**

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

With effective implementation, Oregon's transition to 100% clean electricity will revitalize local economies, create union-wage jobs in the clean energy sector, and improve energy affordability and resilience for our communities. However, in order to realize these benefits, the State must continue to lead in advancing the development and deployment of new clean energy generation technologies.

For example, Oregon's offshore wind resource is the strongest in the nation, with the potential to add 3 gigawatts of clean energy into our regional grid— enough to power at least one million homes. Offshore wind development presents an opportunity to deliver meaningful economic development, job creation, and resiliency benefits for Oregonians, now and in the future.

At the same time, there is a vital need to ensure that any proposed offshore wind development is informed by robust input and engagement from affected stakeholders and local communities, and that potential impacts to existing economies, cultures, and ecosystems are well understood and integrated into decision-making. By directing the creation of an offshore wind roadmap and providing resources to key state agencies, HB 4080 will help to ensure that the State's continued consideration of offshore wind development is transparent, robust, and inclusive.

Specifically, HB 4080 directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development, with support from other state agencies, to develop a roadmap and facilitate discussion and engagement with communities, stakeholders, and Tribes to understand concerns around potential impacts to Oregon's sustainable fisheries, food production, coastal communities and economies, the local environment and wildlife, and cultural and Tribal resources. In doing so, HB 4080 will help set the vision for what sustainable and environmentally responsible wind energy development means for Oregonians through an inclusive and community-driven process.

Should an offshore wind lease auction move forward, HB 4080 also upholds the State's commitment to upholding strong labor requirements for renewable energy projects. By mandating fair labor standards for the construction and manufacturing of parts, HB 4080 will ensure that the jobs created by future offshore wind development provide prevailing wages and benefits, promote a diverse workforce, and create economic opportunity for people in the surrounding coastal communities.

For these reasons, OEC respectfully urges your support for HB 4080.

Sincerely,

*Nora Apter*

Nora Apter | Senior Program Director, Climate  
**Oregon Environmental Council**