



October 5, 2023

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

Re: Public Comments for Offshore Wind Areas on the Southern Oregon Coast, Coos Bay and Brookings

Business Oregon is committed to the State's clean energy standards and is supportive of developing projects to reach its goals. As the State of Oregon's economic development department, we are non-regulatory and therefore rely on partner agencies regarding the science, technology, and feasibility of offshore wind on the Southern Oregon Coast.

The Department has a deep understanding of unique regional economy, and we would like to call out a few factors that should be considered and addressed as offshore wind development is considered in Oregon. The southern Oregon coast, like many other areas in Oregon and the U.S., is in the midst of a housing crisis. The region lacks sufficient housing inventory to accommodate an influx of workers from outside the area. City and county officials are diligently working to relieve the housing shortage, but this will take significant time and money. Additionally, with some infrastructure on the Southern Oregon Coast being antiquated, infrastructure upgrades will need to be addressed before development of offshore wind can occur.

Thank you for letting us share some of our insight regarding potential offshore wind development on the southern Oregon coast. We look forward to future conversations and collaboration on these and other topics related to offshore wind.

Sincerely,

Chris Cummings
Deputy Director