



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

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Director, Oregon Sea Grant
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To: Governor Tina Kotek
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Cc: Director Brenda Ortigoza Bateman, DLCD

August 29, 2024

Re: Request to Pause Offshore Wind Leasing & Fund Roadmap Development

Dear Governor Kotek:

On June 14, 2024, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council unanimously supported two recommendations for your office. First, the Council recommends you request a pause on offshore wind lease off Oregon until the State completes the Offshore Wind Roadmap mandated under House Bill 4080 (2024). Oregonians have consistently raised concerns about wind energy development particularly the potential impacts to our natural resources, recreation, fisheries, and the cultural resources of our coastal Tribes.

Considering the ongoing development of a state Roadmap, we ask you to engage with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and request a delay in the lease auction process to allow time for the development of a state Roadmap, which we anticipate will be completed next year. This request echoes those from conservation organizations, Tribes, and consumptive users and is consistent with your past requests and those of our federal congressional delegation.

Second, the Council asks for your support of additional capacity for agencies and Tribes to participate in the development of the Roadmap, assessment of current enforceable policies, and implementation of recommendations that result from those processes and reports. In development of the Roadmap, we recommend specific inclusion of recreation and tourism, and an alternatives analysis that includes the concepts of avoidance and minimization of the effects of offshore wind.

OPAC appreciates your leadership and engagement throughout this process. Thank you for your consideration of our comments and advice.

Sincerely,

Susan Chambers, Chair

Tara Brock, Vice Chair