



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

April 16, 2024

The Honorable Elizabeth Klein, Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Klein,

In the months since the February 13, 2024, announcement that your agency is moving ahead with offshore wind leasing in federal waters off the coast of Oregon, my office has held a number of conversations with community members, state legislators, and Tribes. I am writing to share their concerns and outline my expectations for continued cooperation as BOEM moves ahead with its federal regulatory process.

I recognize that BOEM's efforts to engage with Oregon communities, the State of Oregon, and local governments date back to 2011. At the outset of your agency's renewed efforts in 2019 to partner with the previous administration in identifying potential offshore wind development areas and data and analysis gaps, local communities were supportive of exploring offshore wind. Those sentiments have changed. As BOEM presses forward with its Environmental Assessment for commercial wind lease issuance off the Oregon coast, the concerns and feedback my administration is hearing from local communities have grown.

That is why my administration arrived at a decision to support the development of a separate, state roadmap on offshore wind (Roadmap) over the next two years. In the months leading up to the 2024 legislative session, my office recognized the opportunities and the potential risks of offshore wind energy development and led work to understand how other states have managed these risks and leveraged opportunities. Through the passage of House Bill 4080 (2024), Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will be engaging coastal communities, communities of practice, and tribal nations to create strategic policy recommendations regarding the potential of offshore wind development. DLCD will also be undertaking an assessment of the enforceable policies that may be applied in the state review of offshore wind development project proposals and the state's capacity to effectively perform these reviews. This Roadmap will be an essential process to ensure that well informed, deliberative, and conscious policy choices drive our state's approach to offshore wind.

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Offshore wind presents an opportunity to create good-paying, local construction, and manufacturing jobs to support the economy on the Oregon coast. I am in strong support of Oregon's clean energy goals and our state's leadership in fighting climate change. However, these changes must come in ways that ensure local communities are at the forefront of economic, workforce, and supply chain development opportunities. The state must also consider the potential cost of offshore wind development on existing coastal resources that provide economic and cultural value to our state. The state's Roadmap will be critical to framing these opportunities and engaging local communities and Tribes in addressing them.

It is therefore my request that you affirm that BOEM will not permit any offshore wind projects to move ahead with construction in the outer continental shelf until Oregon's Roadmap is complete and the state has had a reasonable amount of time to complete any formal policy amendments that directly result from Roadmap recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact my Natural Resources and Climate Advisor, Karin Power, at (503) 559-8652 or karin.power@oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "K".

Governor Tina Kotek