

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF COOS
STATE OF OREGON

IN THE MATTER OF OPPOSING THE)
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM)) PROCLAMATION
COOS BAY OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT)

NOW BEFORE the Board of Commissioners, sitting for the transaction of County business on the 10th day of October, 2023, is the matter of Proclaiming that Coos County, Oregon is opposed to The Coos Bay Offshore Wind Project by BOEM. The Board of Commissioners makes the following findings:

WHEREAS, there is a potentially devastating project looming approximately 14 miles off the Coast of Coos County. It is a floating wind energy project being pushed by promoters, various green groups and BOEM (Federal Ocean Energy Management), AND;

WHEREAS, wind turbines that rise 1,171 feet above the ocean, with blades as long as a football field, that cover 219,568 acres, are attached to the ocean floor at depths 1000 feet deeper than the world's deepest offshore wind turbine, and placed every 1 nautical mile approximately 14 -32 miles offshore from Coos Bay to Brookings are an unwanted eyesore that will negatively impact our way of life along the Oregon Coast, AND;

WHEREAS, the deepest offshore wind turbines are 300 feet deep. Oregon's proposed wind turbines will be drilled at depths of 1300 feet. That is 1000 feet deeper than the world's deepest offshore wind turbines, AND;

WHEREAS, the wind turbines will be drilled into the Cascadia Fault which lies under the world's largest tectonic plate, the Pacific Plate. Oregon does not want to find out the unintended consequences of drilling into an already shaky fault line, AND;

WHEREAS, electro-magnetic radiation disrupts migration patterns of marine mammals and migrating salmonids, AND;

WHEREAS, the sound while preparing a location, building, and operating the wind turbines have been shown to disturb and disorient mammals and fish, AND;

WHEREAS, wind turbulence from the windmills eliminates plankton from the site thus eliminating food source for whales and other plankton feeders, AND;

WHEREAS, NOAA Chief of Protected Species sent letter to BOEM on May 13, 2022 expressing concerns about the turbine wave effect on plankton, which leaves the plankton feeders with no food, AND;

WHEREAS, Blue whales feed on plankton (krill), per NOAA Fisheries, AND;

WHEREAS, Blue whales are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, AND;

WHEREAS, PER NASA, wind farms cause local warming & less precipitation, AND;

WHEREAS, the windmill blades rotate at speeds of 100 mph or greater which kill sea birds, some of which are also endangered, AND;

WHEREAS, it is already documented that land-based windmills kill eagles, geese, bees, bats, butterflies, etc. AND;

WHEREAS, the Short-tailed Albatross habitat is along the west coast of the United States and is listed as endangered throughout its range under the Endangered Species Act (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), AND;

WHEREAS, windmills are often restricted (shut down) by inadequate wind or too strong of winds, AND;

WHEREAS, the windmill blades must be replaced approximately every 5 years and are buried in a landfill in Wyoming, AND;

WHEREAS, the main bodies of the windmills only last approximately 20 years. Unfortunately, many defunct wind towers are left in place as a blight on the landscape due to the high cost to recycle, AND;

WHEREAS, windmills are prone to leaking fluids which will pollute the ocean, AND;

WHEREAS, a two-megawatt windmill is made up of 250 tons of steel that required 300 tons of iron ore and 170 tons of coking coal, all mined, transported and produced by hydrocarbons. A windmill could spin until it falls apart and never generate as much energy as was invested in building it. Per Thomas Homer-Dixon. Carbon Shift, AND;

WHEREAS, the leased area will be restricted to other travel such as fishing, commercial traffic and aviation. The leased area is in the flight approach and departure path of the North Bend airport, AND

WHEREAS, while not a concern of BOEM, we do not want to guarantee the project by having the Oregon legislature enact TIF “Feed in Tarriff” which guarantees that the investors can't lose their investment if something goes wrong with the project, AND;

WHEREAS, while not a concern to BOEM, Pacific Power residential customers received a large rate increase of 21% in January of 2023. Offshore wind energy is the most expensive energy to produce. Residents on the East Coast have seen massive rate increases due to the expense to produce energy with wind turbines (Orsted wind farm on Tug Hill in New York), AND;

WHEREAS, Pacific Power rates range from ¢.07 to ¢.11 per kilowatt. Offshore wind energy rates will range from ¢.54 to over \$1.00 per kilowatt. So, if the project goes fails, the ratepayers, you and I, have to pay the investors. If your residential bill is currently \$200 per month, then to pay off the investors, your bill would go to, at a minimum \$1,500 per month. If you run a business with a \$500 per month bill, you would see an increase to a minimum of \$3,750 per month until the investors were made whole, AND;

WHEREAS, rate increases are concerning but so are other costs associated with offshore wind energy which will also be passed on to the ratepayer, as seen on the East Coast and other parts of the world. Some of the costs associated with producing wind energy are impairments due to supply chain delays, inflation, underproduction, high interest rates, difficult maintenance, specialized ships, skilled laborer's, specific machinery, risk mitigation, etc, AND;

WHEREAS, while not a concern of BOEM, we do not want to pay for the onshore upgrades to the current power system, AND;

WHEREAS, the only two offshore wind projects (The Dominion Wind Project and The Block Island Wind Project) in the United States were financed by passing all the costs to the ratepayers, AND;

WHEREAS, the Virginia legislature has decided that all of the Dominion Wind Project costs, including any overruns, will be passed on to the ratepayers, in spite of ratepayer concerns, AND;

WHEREAS, the Block Island Wind Project was initially rejected by the Rhode Island PUC as being an excessive cost to the ratepayers. So, what did the Rhode Island General Assembly (Legislature) and Governor do? They changed the state law regarding the commercial reasonability of contract pricing. The Rhode Island PUC approved the project, and the ratepayers have been stuck with the higher bills ever since. Think it won't happen in Oregon? Remember not very long ago, the Governor was willing to sign on to any greenwashed project, such as the Cap-and-Trade bill, AND;

WHEREAS, in recent years, \$8,600,000,000.00 (8.6 billion) has been lost by investors in wind and solar projects. This includes the \$1,000,000,000.00 (1 billion) dollar Ponzi scheme that DC Solar pled guilty to in January 2020, AND;

WHEREAS, hydroelectric energy is considered 'green energy,' and accounts for 51% of Oregon's net electricity. Oregon uses approximately 53.7 gigawatts of electricity annually. Hydroelectricity has known impacts on the environment and is less expensive than offshore wind energy, AND;

WHEREAS, US regulators approved a plan to demolish four dams that generate hydroelectricity for Oregon to open up hundreds of miles of salmon habitat. BOEM's 219,568 acres of offshore wind farms will negatively impact salmon habitat as well as many other species, some endangered or threatened, AND;

WHEREAS, the environmental and marine impacts of offshore wind energy generation is still being studied. We already know the environmental impacts from Oregon's dams that produce 'green' hydroelectricity. We are not willing to trade known consequences for unknown and unintended consequences, AND;

WHEREAS, BOEM's proposed wind farms will generate approximately 2.6 gigawatts of electricity at maximum capacity. Research shows that these types of wind turbines run at around 40% capacity. 40% of 2.6 GW is roughly 1 GW energy production. The environmental impacts (known and unknown), unintended and known consequences, expense, jeopardizing our fishing industry and seafood processors, and our way of life is not worth trading for 1 gigawatt of electricity.

WHEREAS, wind power is a greenwashed illusion that has the potential to dramatically raise ratepayer power costs, destroy the local fishing industry therefore seafood processors, decimate endangered bird populations, pollute our coastline, and waste taxpayer dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COOS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAIMS:

Coos County, Oregon is opposed to the BOEM offshore wind project, which could potentially have drastic impacts on Coos County, Coos County Fishing Industry, Coos County's endangered species populations, and the residents of Coos County.

Dated this _____ of _____ 2023

Approved as to form:

Office of Legal Council

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

