

**WSDCC Environment and Climate Caucus Resolution 02 ECC 2022 08 18  
WSDCCRES -- XXX -- XXXXX -- XXX -- ENV – PNW Offshore Wind to be Subject to NEPA**

**PNW OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS TO BE SUBJECT TO NEPA REVIEW BEFORE LEASE NEGOTIATION**

**WHEREAS** we acknowledge that the planet is experiencing a climate crisis and that carbon pollution is driving climate change, we must stop burning fossil fuels to stop carbon pollution, and it is imperative that action be taken, and, while the situation is dire, we must be careful to act with haste, but thoughtfully; and

**WHEREAS** floating wind generation technology may have adverse impacts to weather, upwelling, fisheries, and marine life and there have not been adequate studies done on the West Coast to prove otherwise; and

**WHEREAS** existing activities on the Washington Coast provide family-wage, tribal, recreational and commercial incomes; and

**WHEREAS** the Ocean Resources Management Act (ORMA) requires that any new activity that will adversely impact renewable resources, marine life, fishing, aquaculture, recreation, navigation, air or water quality, or other existing ocean or coastal uses, may be permitted only if certain criteria are met or exceeded, and that all reasonable steps be taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, with special protection provided for the marine life and resources of the Columbia River, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor estuaries, and Olympic National Park; and

**WHEREAS** SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) require that a project report on the environmental impact of the proposed action must be conducted prior to permitting, while, paradoxically, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) allows the issuance of a lease prior to the study of impacts to the community and environment.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, The Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party [WSDCC] joins with other voices against any current or pending West Coast offshore leases and resolves that BOEM’s policy procedures are contrary to and in conflict with the laws of the State and must be changed to require a rigorous, independent programmatic environmental impact analysis prior to any leases. This analysis must recognize and take into consideration the cultural and traditional local marine industries, our thriving fisheries, and the marine biodiversity which sustains them; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the WSDCC for consideration at the September meeting and to Washington’s Congressional delegation and the Democratic caucus of both houses of the state legislature.

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**Submitted to:** ECC on August 5, 2022 for consideration at its 2022 Aug 18 general membership meeting

**Submitted by:** Brian Blake, ECC member (brian.e.blake@outlook.com, 360-589-0123)

**Passed by the ECC:** at its 2022 August 18 general meeting PENDING

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