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International Longshore and Warehouse Union Comment

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION



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December 9, 2022

Kourtney Vaccaro
Commissioner
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
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Commissioner Vaccaro:

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) provides the following comments regarding the implementation of Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525, Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2021), which directs the California Energy Commission to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and decarbonization benefits and establish megawatt offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045.

The ILWU and its affiliate the Inlandboatman's Union (IBU) represent dockworkers and seafarers on the West Coast including California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska. The ILWU welcomes offshore wind to the West Coast, specifically the first floating offshore wind projects in California. We know that continued investment in offshore wind is essential in order to advance the country's and California's renewable energy goals, and we are eager for the extraordinary opportunities this investment will provide for the community and ILWU workers.

ILWU workers have moved cargo at the Port of Humboldt since 1937. With nearly a century of experience, the ILWU and ILWU workers have both the knowledge and historic jurisdictional footprint necessary to be a key player in the burgeoning offshore wind industry's workforce. The ILWU is also committed to ensuring that the ILWU's traditional jurisdiction – i.e., loading and unloading cargo from vessels, rail and trucks the movement of cargo around the port, and operating tugboat and barges, dredges, water taxis, etc. – is protected. We have concerns that the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) will result in other parties extending the PLA scope of work beyond construction, impinging on traditional ILWU jurisdiction.

The ILWU is committed to working with federal and state governments, harbor districts, and local stakeholders to ensure a timely roll out of offshore wind at the Port of Humboldt and beyond and look forward to opportunities for continued collaboration as the project unfolds. The ILWU will play a critical role in ensuring that offshore wind energy jobs —from turbine unloading to offshore wind platform maintenance and barge transport — are safe, well-paying union jobs.

For over three decades, ILWU workers in Vancouver, WA, Longview, WA, Portland, OR, and Stockton, CA, have played a critical role in unloading and transporting components for massive onshore wind turbines up and down the West Coast of the United States.

When developing the AB 525 report, we request that you include that the ILWU is a critical partner for offshore wind projects in the state. ILWU workers are experienced experts when it comes to loading and unloading and moving cargo in ports throughout California, and this knowledge will ensure that offshore wind energy jobs —from turbine unloading to offshore wind platform maintenance and barge transport — are safe, well-paying union jobs. We also request that the funds allocated in the 2022 budget for offshore wind projects should only be allocated to ports that respect the ILWU’s traditional work.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby Olvera, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bobby Olvera, Jr.
International Vice President, Mainland

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