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Suspend Offshore Wind Farm Development

I am a resident of the Central Coast of California in Los Osos. I have been actively following the proposed plan for offshore wind development off the San Luis Obispo County coastline for several years. I am outraged on how the public has been ill informed on the impacts that this project will bring to the marine environment, both offshore and nearshore, as well as the onshore communities along our coast. I interact with community members on the Central Coast almost everyday who have absolutely no knowledge of the impacts that offshore wind operations will bring to our communities and marine environment. It is clear that federal and state government agencies have ignored the interests of local citizenry and the marine environment for the private industrialization of our communities and ocean; moreover, AB525 reflects this disregard for the Central Coast of California.

It has also become clear to me, as well as others who have been following the promotion of offshore wind development off the Central Coast, that other state and local agencies have not been forthcoming with data that reveals the detrimental impacts that will visit our coastline. A significant amount of research is now being generated on the east coast of the United States in areas where offshore wind is being implemented. This research should not be ignored. I have attended meetings where representatives from the wind companies and government agencies regularly dodge questions when asked about the impacts being experienced by offshore wind in other venues both domestically and internationally. Furthermore, the scale of this project and the plethora of unknown impacts does not allow for mitigation. The production of energy from the proposed offshore farms here is speculative at best and is being propelled by significant investments by the Federal government and the State of California. Additionally, the economic benefits to local communities in light of this uncertainty, and the significant destruction to our ocean environment.

The California Energy Commission must suspend the development of offshore wind off the coast of San Luis Obispo County until the people of California communities have the opportunity to be fully informed of the fiscal and environmental impacts that will be forthcoming. After the public has been fully educated, the further development of offshore wind projects should be decided by the voters of California by local and state ballot measures.