

# United States Senate

September 22, 2022

Amanda Lefton  
Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington D.C., 20240

Dear Director Lefton:

We write to you today regarding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Proposed Sale Notice for commercial offshore wind energy leases off the coast of Morro Bay and Humboldt County, California. Developing offshore wind is an essential part of California's clean energy future, and if designed responsibly and with the needs of local communities in mind, can address climate change while minimizing harm to our natural resources. As you work to finalize details of this lease sale, we urge you to increase the total bid credits for community benefit agreements (CBAs) to 20 percent and to consider expanding eligible community benefits agreements to onshore groups and communities, which will incentivize early engagement with local stakeholders and reduce the potential for public opposition and costly delays.

As you know, the Proposed Sale Notice currently establishes a 2.5 percent bid credit for developers who have entered into CBAs with ocean users in the BOEM wind energy areas, which would ensure that benefits from the project flow to the most impacted stakeholders. However, we believe that the proposed credit is too low to incentivize developers to enter into these agreements, and represents only a fraction of other bid credit options, such as the 20 percent bid credit for investment in workforce development and domestic supply chains. Furthermore, BOEM's proposal to limit CBA participation to ocean users fails to address the impact to onshore stakeholders and communities, whose support is also essential to the successful installation of these complex projects. Therefore, we urge you to increase total bid credits for CBAs to match the 20 percent credit for workforce development, and to expand CBA benefits beyond those who harvest from the lease area. Without these changes, we believe that BOEM is missing an

opportunity to reduce development risk for a critical source of renewable energy that is thus far unprecedented off of the West Coast.

We are proud that California and the Biden-Harris Administration have set ambitious targets for offshore wind deployment by the end of the decade. Achieving those goals will require attention to California's unique challenges, needs, and values, and BOEM has taken a positive step in using a multi-factor auction format for the first time ever. However, we urge you to ensure that the final agreement results in leases awarded to developers who deliver on their proposed commitments to affected stakeholders, not just to the highest bidder. Thank you for your consideration of our request, and please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator