

September 8, 2022

Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee
House Natural Resources Committee
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Oversight Field Hearing: Power in the Pacific: Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy for the American West, September 8, 2022.

To the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee, Chairman Lowenthal, and Chairman Grijalva-

On behalf of the members of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), it is appreciated that the House Natural Resources, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee is holding an Offshore Wind Energy exploratory hearing on the West Coast. PMSA is a nonprofit trade association which represents owners and operators of U.S. and foreign flagged vessels operating along the U.S. West Coast, and, as such, have a deep interest in offshore development.

As a principal waterway user, PMSA is keen to engage and participate in such forums as this hearing; it was disappointing to have only been made aware of the hearing just one week ago. It is, regrettably, a lost opportunity that the commercial maritime industry failed to be recognized or included on the three panels which include ports, the fishing industry, labor, the wind industry, a distillery, among others. **It is imperative that offshore energy decision makers act in a manner which acknowledges and prioritizes the many shared uses of the sea, including spatial planning for safe and continuous navigation and vessel routing.** Our nation's economy depends on these commercial vessels that carry the imported and exported goods relied upon by millions of Americans. California ports are the nation's gateway, with more than 40 percent of containerized cargo entering the U.S. arriving through our west coast seaports; offshore development should not jeopardize this.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time PMSA, and the entire maritime industry, has been excluded from such critical offshore discussions by the federal government and agencies, such as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), as well as state agencies. All relevant stakeholders must be engaged in a similar fashion; **the ongoing lack of engagement with the commercial maritime community is a significant deficiency in the development of offshore wind energy on the west coast.**

To illustrate, wind energy activities offshore Oregon included at least 85 outreach and engagement meetings held from October 2020 through today; not one has included representatives of ocean-going cargo, tug and tow, or tanker vessels.

To be sure, PMSA is not opposed to offshore wind energy projects in practice; we simply strive for the safest, most feasible and least impactful projects as California moves ahead in securing its ambitious wind energy goals. PMSA respectfully requests that the commercial maritime industry be engaged and recognized in further discussions and forums by this committee, and fellow federal bodies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jacqueline M. Moore". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jacqueline M. Moore
Vice President