Good morning ladies and gentlemen and members of the House committee on Natural Resources, subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

My name is Jeremiah O'Brien, and I am the vice president of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization and a member of the Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board.

As many of you know, those of us in the fishing industry have been in discussion with various energy developers for the past seven years now and have met with various degrees of success in some cases, less in others.

We do not want people to think that mitigation means acceptance of the harm that this will do to our industry and our community. It does not. Mitigation is a desperate tool for existence and survival in the near future, and continued build-out of these facilities will cause permanent damage to the commercial fishing industry and those industries shorebased that support us.

There is no amount of money this will save the eventual destruction or solve any of the related problems. As we lose more areas over time, coupled with the areas we have lost to environmental and government

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restriction, we will be moving fishermen further and further into a shrinking ocean, meaning that will cause a loss of income and loss of harvestable fish stocks as more and more boats converge on an ever shrinking area.

The fishing industry is comprised of hardy, strong and brave men and women, but the industry itself and what holds it together is a very delicate system of suppliers, parts, facilities, processing, community workers, and trucking, and it goes on. We ship our harvest worldwide, and its contribution to help our trade imbalance is very important to our economy.

This all constitutes a very delicate balance, and if one area is affected adversely it will reverberate throughout the system and its facilities.

When one link in this chain is broken it can be devastating to many other segments of the community near and far from the sea, and the echoing effect on the taking of these areas must be comprehensively addressed and analyzed so you will know exactly what this trade for ocean resources is really worth.

A complete and total economic report should be the first thing we do in order to explain and help understand what this trade off of power for food resource is actually costing the American people.

We need to analyze the losses of accessibility

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to these areas, the impacts to the communities in these areas, and all related shorebased economic impacts.

I say this because never before have we had to trade valuable resources such as food security and economic loss to gain other resources such as power.

In the past we used things like steam, coal, fossil fuels, solar, wind, and nuclear power, but we've never had to trade a valuable resource such as food to make gains on our power grid. These others have come at a relatively cheap price where we are not losing other resources.

Also in this regard we will need to come up with a figure, a number, or a cost to the final consumer for this product. Mom and Dad who put a piece of toast in the toaster in the morning should need to know what this type of electricity will cost them.

It is our contention that this cost will burden the American people at a time when housing, food, and transportation costs are soaring. This will add much pain and suffering to those already feeling oppressed and lead to further homelessness in America.

Wind energy industries speak of gains and claims of employment. We need an economic impact report so we can see the true losses and gains and how the American consumer will fair at the end of these

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projects, else we will be throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

The food-security issue that I have brought up must be discussed in modern terms such as farmland in the West suffering devastating droughts in their futures in our food production.

Couple that with the losses of at-sea food production, these losses, particularly from drought and climate change, are affecting not only America but the world, and food security is becoming more important each year as a megadrought takes its course across the West.

We should be looking for areas for electrical needs that are not inhabited by food producers.

Electricity must be met and developed in areas that will not trade a resource for other resources.

If they are, this tradeoff of valuable resources will be diminished by the possibility of eradicating gains made by this new energy source.

IF WE HAVE TIME

We feel that the government, thus far, in offshore wind production has taken the commercial fishing industry and the food produced by the industry much too lightly and fail to realize the importance of supplying one of the healthiest proteins known to man to the public.