

JARED HUFFMAN
2ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2445 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5161
WEBSITE: huffman.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES – RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

May 17, 2024

Elizabeth Klein
Director
U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Klein:

I am writing to request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) urgently place a senior-level official in California who will be responsive to tribal needs regarding impending offshore wind development. Tribes in my California congressional district are witnessing the advancement of a significant new clean energy industry in offshore wind, which has both the promise of confronting climate change and the potential to impact native people and their lands and cultures. Most tribal nations have limited capacity to participate in offshore wind development in its early stages and have serious concerns about the deployment of the technology. Recently, a number of tribal governments in my district made public their opposition to offshore development on California's North Coast.

U.S. Interior Secretary Deborah Haaland and I heard these concerns firsthand when she visited Eureka in March 2024. During her roundtable discussion with tribal leaders, she heard directly about the need for the federal government to do more to ensure tribes have a clear role in developing offshore wind. Tribes expressed their appreciation to the Secretary for hearing their concerns but repeatedly called for the placement of a high-level official from the BOEM in California to whom they can have direct access on a regular basis.

As you know, California is the epicenter of offshore wind on the West Coast. It will be the model for offshore wind development for the West and in many deep-water sites around the world. It is critical that the federal government get offshore wind right in California. Government-to-government consultation that respects tribal sovereignty and addresses concerns early in the process must be a bedrock principle in the development of offshore wind. This effort will be time-consuming but critical to understanding both tribal communities' needs and the deep traditional and ecological knowledge that they possess.

I call on BOEM again to expeditiously place an official on the ground in California to oversee tribal participation in offshore wind development. This is vital to the offshore wind effort and is responsive to the federal government's trust obligations to tribes.

I look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact my Senior District Representative John Driscoll at (707) 407-3585.

Sincerely,



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress