



**Comments by *Offshore Wind California* to California Energy Commission (CEC) Workshop
on Draft Assembly Bill (AB) 525 Strategic Plan to Advance California Offshore Wind**

March 20, 2024

I'm Adam Stern, Executive Director of *Offshore Wind California* (OWC), a trade group representing 40 companies and organizations in the offshore wind industry. I want to thank the CEC, staff, and all the other agencies who participated in developing this [plan](#). It's an extraordinary effort and only something that California could do.

As we stated in January, the draft plan as released was comprehensive; it's exactly what California needs to responsibly develop this renewable energy resource at scale and with speed off the state's coast. Of course, much work remains to refine the details, including how we can fund the necessary investments, but the plan's determination and direction is clear. It's an important milestone that underscores California's commitment to go big on offshore wind to help meet its ambitious climate, clean-energy, and grid-reliability goals.

For the Golden State, the future and foundations of offshore wind are floating. I had a chance to see for myself with several others in this room on a recent California delegation trip to the United Kingdom to view floating offshore wind turbines in action off the coast of Scotland. The sight of these floating turbines was truly amazing. Each one generates enough clean power to supply a home for a day with a single turn of a turbine. Seeing is really believing. And it's all the more motivating on the need to responsibly bring this remarkable technology to the waters off California's coast.

A few suggestions on ways to strengthen your excellent report:

One, as several other people have mentioned during today's comments, I think it would be really helpful to consolidate the [benefits](#) that offshore wind offers to the state. Just to highlight a few: the [thousands](#) of family-wage jobs, clean power for up to [25 million homes](#), the chance to deliver reliable clean power when peak demand for electricity is at its highest, and help avoid the rolling blackouts that remain a threat to California's grid, the chance to reduce emissions in California for communities that for too long have shouldered environmental burdens, and lastly, to do our part to help reduce climate change impacts.

Secondly, I think it would be very helpful to have a section that highlights the mix of federal, state, and private funding necessary to get this industry launched. And one specific opportunity that several others, including Environment California's Dan Jacobson have mentioned, is [AB 2208](#), the climate bond measure that would include \$1 billion of funding for port infrastructure investments to support offshore wind. That measure is supported by a coalition of labor, environmental groups, and industry. It would be a very powerful market signal to this industry that California is ready to move forward. And while the State is navigating a challenging budget environment, this kind of commitment if supported by the Legislature and approved by the voters would make an enormous difference in moving ahead.

Thank you very much.

Adam Stern, Executive Director, [Offshore Wind California](#) (OWC),
a trade group of offshore wind developers and technology companies