



Statement on Gov. Newsom Signing AB 525 to Spur Offshore Wind Power Development in California

Labor, environmental, and industry coalition powers AB 525 legislation
to accelerate offshore wind plan for California

September 23, 2021

Governor Newsom's [signing of AB 525](#) marks an historic milestone and major turning point for California's offshore wind industry and workers. The landmark legislation was approved with overwhelming bipartisan backing by California's Assembly and Senate, and broad support from labor, industry, environmental and environmental justice groups. It follows the Biden Administration and Gov. Newsom's [announcement](#) for California offshore wind earlier this spring. The legislation directs state agencies to set offshore wind targets for 2030 and 2045 and prepare a strategic plan and timeline to spur responsible development of large-scale offshore wind power for the Golden State. The bill will help address California's pressing climate challenges and sends a strong signal to the offshore wind market. It cites a [recent interagency report](#) showing at least 10 gigawatts (GW) of this renewable resource will be needed to ensure California's 100% clean energy future.

We want to thank Governor Newsom as well as lead Assembly authors, Assembly Members David Chiu, Jordan Cunningham, and Laura Friedman, the principal Senate co-authors, Senators Josh Becker and Susan Eggman, and Senator John Laird and Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins, and also key labor, industry, environmental and environmental justice supporters, for their leadership and advocacy.

We look forward to working with state and federal agencies to map out a path to achieve at least 10 GW of offshore wind for California by 2040. This is an essential and complementary clean energy source that produces power during the day and in the evening when solar generation is down. California has some of the world's most powerful offshore wind resources and can build a thriving new industry that delivers thousands of jobs and an initial 4.6 GW from wind leases 20-25 miles off the Central and North coasts. This first phase of development will contribute to President Biden's national goal of 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030, while potentially saving billions for California ratepayers, supplying clean power to 1.6 million households, and generating billions for the state's economy. To reach these ambitious goals, the state needs to complete environmental reviews, upgrade port and transmission infrastructure, support development of an offshore wind supply chain, and streamline permitting while protecting wildlife and cultural resources.

The future for California offshore wind power is bright, using proven floating wind technologies already utilized elsewhere in the world. To realize its promise and reduce our climate risks, we must get started now.

Adam Stern, Executive Director, Offshore Wind California, a business association of offshore wind developers and technology companies