

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8718

To conditionally prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in the Columbia Management Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2024

Ms. PEREZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To conditionally prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in the Columbia Management Area, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL OFFSHORE**
4 **WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN COLUMBIA**
5 **MANAGEMENT AREA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 8 of the
7 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337), no
8 lease, license, permit, or other authorization may be issued
9 for the development of commercial offshore wind energy
10 in the Columbia Management Area unless the Comptroller

1 General determines the results of the study conducted
2 under subsection (b) show that offshore wind projects in
3 the Columbia Management Area do not and will not have
4 adverse impacts on the items described in paragraph
5 (2)(A) of that subsection.

6 (b) STUDY.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
9 Comptroller General shall conduct a study to assess
10 the sufficiency of the environmental review processes
11 of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Bu-
12 reau of Ocean Energy Management, and any other
13 relevant Federal agency for offshore wind projects in
14 the Columbia Management Area in place as of the
15 date of enactment of this section.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—The study required under
17 paragraph (1) shall include consideration of the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (A) The impacts of offshore wind projects
20 in the Columbia Management Area on—

21 (i) marine mammals;

22 (ii) finfish;

23 (iii) shellfish aquaculture;

24 (iv) the commercial and recreational
25 fishing industries, including marine equip-

1 ment retailers, onshore processors, fish
2 markets, and other shoreside businesses;

3 (v) air quality and greenhouse gas
4 emissions;

5 (vi) cultural, historical, and Tribal re-
6 sources;

7 (vii) marine invertebrates;

8 (viii) essential fish habitat;

9 (ix) plankton abundance and distribu-
10 tion;

11 (x) recreation and tourism; and

12 (xi) fisheries-dependent communities.

13 (B) How each agency described in para-
14 graph (1) determines which stakeholders to con-
15 sult with regard to offshore wind projects in the
16 Columbia Management Area and if a timely,
17 comprehensive comment period is provided for
18 local representatives and interested parties with
19 regard to such offshore wind projects.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) COLUMBIA MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term
22 “Columbia Management Area” means the area de-
23 scribed in paragraph (1)(ii) of the definition of the
24 term “North-South management area” in section

1 660.11 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or
2 a successor regulation).

3 (2) ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT.—The term “es-
4 sential fish habitat” has the meaning given the term
5 in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Con-
6 servation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802).

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