PacWave South
Letters in Support for Previous PacWave Funding Opportunities

Office of the Governor

- Governor Kate Brown

Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy (FINE)

- Committee Chair Bob Jacobson

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

- Chair Commissioner Bill Hall
- Commissioner Terry N. Thompson
- Commissioner Doug Hunt

Oregon Coastal Caucus

- Chair Representative Caddy McKeown
- Vice-Chair Senator Jeff Kruse
- Senator Betsy Johnson
- Senator Arnie Roblan
- Senator Doug Whitsett
- Representative Deborah Boone
- Representative David Gomberg
- Representative Wayne Krieger

United States Senate

- U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (OR)
- U.S. Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley (OR)
- U.S. Senator Patty Murray (WA)
- U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (WA)
- U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK)
- U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (AK)
September 15, 2016

Ernest Moniz, Secretary  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
WashingtonDC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

I write to you to share my support of Oregon State University’s (OSU) leadership and commitment to marine renewable energy research and development. I understand that OSU is competing for an U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant to develop a marine energy test site and I firmly believe that OSU is the only institution in the nation capable of meeting DOE objectives in this field.

The Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC), operated out of OSU, was established about ten years ago and has conducted excellent work to support the safe development of the marine renewable energy industry in Oregon. NNMREC has been funded at approximately $11 million in federal and non-federal funding to date. Over the past decade, NNMREC has become a globally recognized leader in the research and testing of emerging marine energy technologies.

NNMREC is now developing the Pacific Marine Energy Center - South Energy Test Site (PMEC-SETS) to serve as a grid connected test facility for utility scale wave energy devices. NNMREC has worked extensively with Oregon’s coastal communities on wave energy research and testing projects. Particularly important has been NNMREC’s engagement with Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy (FINE) group. The community values the partnership with NNMREC, and supports its work in advancing Oregon as the U.S. leader in wave energy research and testing.

DOE recently announced $40 million of federal funding to potentially support development of the PMEC-SETS wave energy test facility. It is anticipated that the total federal and non-federal investment in this project will reach $50 million over the next three to five years. Therefore, success of NNMREC’s application has the potential to yield significant returns to our rural and coastal communities. Once operational, it is estimated that the test facility could attract approximately $9 million in economic activity per year in coastal communities including Newport, Toledo, Reedsport, Coos Bay and Astoria.

This funding represents a continuation of the strong commitment to wave energy that the State of Oregon has exhibited through funding to NNMREC and other entities. Once completed, this project will make Oregon the home of the premier deep water, wave energy technology test facility in the United States.

I strongly support OSU’s proposal, particularly because the project will cement Oregon’s leadership role in the development of a commercially viable and environmentally safe global marine renewable energy industry. Thank you again for all of the tremendous work by you and your team.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Governor Kate Brown

GKB:ks/sh
13 September 2016

Belinda Batten  
Director, Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC)  
Oregon State University  
350 Batcheller Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Dr. Batten,

On behalf of the Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy (FINE) committee, we are writing to express our strong support for your proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy for the completion and initial operations of the Pacific Marine Energy Center South Energy Test Site (PMEC-SETS). We understand that PMEC-SETS will serve as the first fully-permitted grid connected test facility for wave energy converters and arrays.

Over the last ten years, NNMREC has worked extensively with the coastal communities including our committee on wave energy research and testing projects, including the establishment of their non-grid connected test facility located north of Yaquina Head, PMEC-NETS, which we sited for them.

Additionally, the FINE committee, working with other community partners and Oregon Sea Grant identified the location for the PMEC-SETS test facility, which 6 nautical miles off the coast of Newport. We believe that this location will not only provide NNMREC with the kind of environment they need for a successful project, but will also reduce negative impacts to other ocean users. We value the engagement that NNMREC has had with our committee over the last ten years, and we feel confident that we can continue to work and have positive relationships with them in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Jacobson  
FINE Committee, chair
September 6, 2016

Belinda Batten  
Director, Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC)  
Oregon State University  
350 Batcheller Hall  
Corvallis, OR 97331

Subject: Support for the proposal, Enabling Cost Effective Electricity from Ocean Waves: PMEC-SETS

Dear Dr. Batten,

On behalf of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for your proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy for the completion and initial operations of the Pacific Marine Energy Center South Energy Test Site (PMEC-SETS). We understand that PMEC-SETS will serve as the first fully-permitted grid connected test facility for wave energy converters and arrays.

Over the last ten years, NNMREC has worked extensively with the coastal communities on wave energy research and testing projects, including the establishment of their non-grid connected test facility located north of Yaquina Head, PMEC-NETS. In their ocean projects, they have actively engaged with Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy (FINE); in fact the members of FINE identified the location for the PMEC-SETS test facility, 6 nautical miles off the coast of Newport. The community values the partnership with NNMREC, and supports their work in advancing Oregon as the U.S. leader in wave energy research and testing.

If awarded, this funding will make Newport, Oregon the home of the premier deep water, wave energy technology test facility in the U.S. and we are enthusiastic about the opportunity it provides for our community.

Sincerely,

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BILL HALL, Chair  
TERRY N. THOMPSON  
DOUG HUNT
Dear Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley:

The members of the Oregon Legislature’s Coastal Caucus write to express our strong support for state investments in the research and development of renewable energy resources and technologies on the Oregon Coast. Toward this end, we are seeking an appropriation during the 2016 legislative session of $1.5 million, which will serve as a local match to enable the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC) at Oregon State University (OSU) for the Pacific Marine Energy Center (PMEC) to compete for a $5 million federal grant designed to (1) facilitate the development and commercialization of marine energy technologies, (2) support outreach efforts to advance access to sustainable energy resources to stakeholders such as fishing and environmental organizations, utility industries and local governments, and (3) attract sustainable energy project developers to Oregon.

In December 2015, Congress appropriated $5 million to the US Department of Energy to fund a competitive grant to further develop a wave energy test facility. It is anticipated that this funding will grow over the next 3 to 5 years to a federal investment totaling $40 million, with the expectation that successful competitors for the grant will provide a 25% match to the federal funds. The total federal and non-federal investment in this project is expected to reach $50 million. Therefore, success of the NNMREC’s application has the potential to yield significant returns to our rural and coastal communities which continue to struggle to rebound from the great recession.

The federal funding available to support Oregon’s leadership in the development and commercialization of clean and efficient energy technologies and facilities will create enormous long-term, high-paying employment opportunities in our coastal and rural areas. That is why this very modest initial appropriation is so important. Over the next two biennia, NNMREC, in collaboration with OSU, will work closely with OWET to attract marine energy device
developers, ocean users and their organizations, community groups and federal and state regulators to generate the remaining matching funds needed.

Of the amount specified in the appropriation, $1.25 million will be distributed to OSU for the PMEC South Energy Test Site project and a grant of $250,000 will be appropriated to support the ongoing work of OWET to attract project developers to Oregon and identify strategic priorities on behalf of public partners.

With roughly 300 miles of coastline characterized by powerful waves and constant winds, Oregon is uniquely positioned to become North America’s leader in developing facilities that serve American and international developers of clean energy technologies and equipment. We urge your support of this unique opportunity to help Oregon reap the many benefits of becoming a world leader in the development of new clean energy technologies.

Sincerely yours,
October 21, 2016

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

We write in support of the grant application submitted by the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC) to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Wave Energy Test Facility funding opportunity (DE-FOA-0001419). NNMREC would build upon existing DOE investments to construct a grid connected test facility for utility scale wave energy converters (WECs) at the Pacific Marine Energy Center South Energy Test Site (PMEC-SETS), located six nautical miles off the coast of Newport, Oregon. This project is critical to advancing the ability to capture and utilize the abundant marine and freshwater renewable energy resources found in our nation’s waves, currents, and tides.

NNMREC, a consortium of the University of Washington, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Oregon State University, is a global leader in researching, developing, and testing marine energy technologies. Since its establishment in 2008 through a DOE grant, NNMREC has coordinated closely with researchers, technology developers, community stakeholders, and regulatory and resource agencies to advance wave, tidal, and in-river energy research and test projects. With a non-grid wave energy test facility in place, NNMREC has now turned to the next step of developing a grid connected test facility for utility scale WEC arrays. This would facilitate WEC performance, environmental interaction, and survivability testing in an ocean environment. It would also help bridge a critical gap in technology commercialization and make marine renewable energy viable in the United States and globally, ultimately helping address clean power needs and climate change.

NNMREC has assembled a strong team to support construction and operation of PMEC-SETS. In addition to the University of Washington, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Oregon State University, the team includes the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, and other leaders in their respective fields.

This proposal is the product of more than ten years of work and over $11 million in federal and non-federal funding to develop the PMEC-SETS, beginning with an initial $4 million DOE grant to NNMREC in 2012. NNMREC has worked extensively with Oregon’s coastal communities to build support for and address any potential concerns.
regarding wave energy research and testing projects, and will continue to work with communities and stakeholders in Oregon, Washington and Alaska as the project moves forward. Particularly important has been NNMREC’s engagement with Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy (FINE), who helped identify the location for the PMEC-SETS test facility. In addition, NNMREC developed an environmental baseline within the PMEC-SETS study area to inform design, post-installation and adaptive management plans, monitoring activities, and potential mitigation to ensure compatibility with the natural environment and prevent harm to the environment and marine life.

The United States has extensive marine renewable energy resources. DOE estimates that technically recoverable domestic marine and hydrokinetic resources are between 1,285 and 1,846 terawatt-hours (TWh) per year – roughly half of total U.S. retail electricity demand in 2015. Developing new advanced marine energy power systems represents a substantial opportunity for the United States to lead the world in an emerging area of energy science and discovery, while also meeting our increasing electricity needs with a clean source of energy that stimulates a broad range of job-creating industries. NNMREC’s proposal for a full-scale, deepwater, technology test facility would accelerate deployment of advanced water power technologies, further research already underway by the University of Washington, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Oregon State University, and others, and help attract private capital.

NNMREC and its team have made significant strides toward development of a grid connected test facility and this funding opportunity would help bring it to completion. We urge you to give full and fair consideration to NNMREC’s proposal.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely

Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator

Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator

Patty Murray
U.S. Senator

Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator