

SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Safety and Fairness for Oregon Workers

From offshore wind construction to warehouses across the state, the Oregon Senate stands with workers

SALEM, OR – Today, the Oregon Senate passed bills to promote safety and fairness for Oregon workers. <u>House Bill 4127</u> ensures that warehouse workers are aware if they are subject to any performance quotas, and <u>House Bill 4080</u> sets strong labor standards for construction of off-shore wind.

Warehouse work can be <u>very dangerous</u>, and workers in this field face higher injury rates than coal miners, lumberjacks, trash collectors, and police officers. Advocates for warehouse workers cite the use of productivity quotas and productivity metrics as a contributing factor to the elevated injury rate in warehouse distribution centers.

HB 4127 requires transparency about these quotas, giving workers the information they need to perform their work effectively and advocate for themselves. The bill also protects workers from discipline or dismissal for failure to meet a quota that was not adequately communicated by an employer.

"We rely on warehouse workers to keep our economy moving, and they have the right to transparency about their own performance requirements and quotas," said **Senator Chris Gorsek (D-Gresham)**, Co-Chief Sponsor of HB 4127. "The growth of online shopping and other economic changes have increased our reliance on warehouses, which has increased demands on workers. HB 4127 will ensure that workers have more information and protection from unfair enforcement of quotas."

The <u>wind projects proposed for Oregon's coastline</u> have the potential to generate significant amounts of clean energy and thousands of new jobs. HB 4080 ensures that these jobs will come with strong labor standards. It requires the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development to engage with critical stakeholders and develop a roadmap for offshore wind.

"If offshore wind is developed along Oregon's coast, it should be built with Oregon workers, under Oregon labor standards, and be led by Oregon values," said **Senator Michael Dembrow** (**D** - **Portland**), who carried the bill on the floor of the Senate. "HB 4080 will ensure that Oregon has a plan that considers the needs of all ocean users and stakeholders, from tribes to trawlers and developers to conservation advocates."

Supporting Oregon's workforce is a key pillar of Senate Democrats' <u>Uniting Oregon Agenda</u>. HB 4080 and HB 4127 now head to the Governor for her signature.

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