

April 24, 2013

Dear Chair Bailey and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (BEW) Local 125, I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 242. IBEW Local 125 represents approximately 3,500 members who work in the Pacific Northwest's electric utility business.

IBEW Local 125 supports amending Senate Bill 242 to level the playing field for all owners of electric generation resources. We understand the underlying policy behind the bill to ensure that Oregon's utilities do not make new long-term commitments to coal generation. The amendment we support is consistent with that policy. We support an amendment that would allow the owners of coal-fired generation who have made a legally-binding commitment to shut down that generation early to continue having the opportunity for long-term sales agreements with willing buyers in Oregon.

Those facilities that are already committed to shut down early should not be punished by losing access to potential customers for doing exactly what Oregon policymakers want. Our members work at these generation plants and know that their jobs will be eliminated soon. We believe that these workers, their families, and the communities where they live and work should not be penalized by policies and laws which prevent fulfillment of early shut-down agreements.

IBEW Local 125 urges your support of an amendment, and with the amendment, passage of the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcy Grail, PHR Assistant Business Manager IBEW Local 125