



ecpowerslife.com

House Committee on Energy and Environment

900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 25, 2019

RE: HB 2496

Dear Rep. Helm, Rep. Reschke, Rep. Schouten, and Members of the Committee,

EC Electric submits this written testimony as one of the top ten largest privately-held electrical contractors in the United States, serving the Pacific Northwest for over 75 years. EC is a fully integrated electrical construction company with an extensive amount of varied electrical experience. We are headquartered in NW Portland and provide great wages for over 600 field employees in Oregon, and over 1,000 in the Pacific Northwest. We are proud to be a union contractor and members of NECA and IBEW.

Since 2016, Green Energy Technology (GET)-compliant projects have represented over 50% of EC Electric’s rooftop photovoltaic installations, totaling over \$4M in revenue and well over a megawatt of capacity.

We support HB 2496 to expand GET but do not believe its language resolves an ongoing issue of the enforcement of ORS 279C.527.

In a recent meeting with a construction manager, we were informed that they would not pursue GET compliance for qualified public works projects unless their client actively wished to pursue renewable technology. The stated rationale was that there are no repercussions for noncompliance. The multi-site projects being discussed were part of a \$330M bond, representing an approximate loss of \$4M invested in Oregon’s renewable future.

Stronger language for compliance has been introduced in HB 2497, which we support. By making compliance with the law part of the permitting process, ORS 279C.527 will become a requirement instead of a program many construction managers now see as optional.

We have a responsibility to be good stewards of this planet and to provide a livable environment for future generations. Please have the courage to strengthen Oregon’s commitment to a renewable future by ensuring existing legislation passed for this purpose can be verified and enforced. We urge you to amend HB 2496 to require compliance prior to a permit being issued. Let’s build the sustainable future we wish for tomorrow by starting today.

Sincerely,

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