



IBEW Local 125

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

March 9, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer
Chair, Energy & Environment Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 784

Dear Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Marcy Grail. I am an assistant business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 125. We represent approximately 3,600 members working in the Pacific Northwest's electric utility industry. Our members cover utilities, outside line construction and line clearance tree trimming.

IBEW Local 125 appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB 784. We are thankful for PGE's efforts in tackling the complex topics of customer choice, labor standards, and energy resiliency. After last month's storm and last year's wildfires, we support efforts to work collaboratively on these issues. At this time, we are not prepared to offer a formal position on Senate Bill 784, but we did want to make a few comments.

Our members are on the front lines of service and restoration. They hear from customers who want choices; they want clean energy. They also want affordable, reliable, and safely-delivered energy. Our members help make that happen each and every day. The insertion of labor standards into this bill is a start to addressing topics such as apprenticeships, wages and benefits. We can strive towards elements of the labor standards but are evaluating certain elements as written. Oregon will continue investing in renewable energy, and we need a workforce that is up to the challenge. Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs are needed in the construction industry to meet the expectations associated with reliability, safety, and overall service, and labor standards are a mechanism to ensure they exist not just as a "nice to have" but need to protect both Oregon's workers and the public.

We follow actions at the Oregon PUC, so we are aware of the efforts around wildfire mitigation in AR 638. We believe the recent storms showed vulnerability and need for continued efforts around vegetation management as well as manpower which are just as critical as the actual infrastructure and facilities for a utility. Resiliency is a priority for our state and must be addressed. Communities are afraid, and utilities are responding. At this time, there is a lot of awareness on resiliency and preparedness, and we support efforts to work towards meeting those issues.

In conclusion, we look forward to continued involvement on Senate Bill 784. Again, we thank Portland General Electric for its willingness to respond to needs around labor standards, resiliency and customer choice. Oregonians are depending on all of us. We understand the 100% Clean Energy Goal but have concerns simply based on needed investment in our infrastructure and the targets associated with electrifying the transportation sector. We look forward to engaging further and collaborating to serve Oregon's energy needs on this transition to 100% Clean Energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Grail". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcy Grail, PHR
Assistant Business Manager
IBEW Local 125

MG:cln
opeiu#11 afl-cio
C: Travis Eri, IBEW Local 125
Bob Westerman, Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers