



Founded 1889

UNITED ASSOCIATION

of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

Mark McManus
General President

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General Secretary-Treasurer

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Assistant General President

UA Local Union: 290

Letters should
be confined to
one subject

Subject:

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, and members of the committee:

My name is Drew Waits. I am the Business Agent/Organizer for Southern Oregon/Northern California for UA Local 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters. We represent 4,000 active and retired members specializing in the fabrication, installation, and servicing of piping and plumbing systems.

I am here today to provide testimony on the workforce and economic development implications of proposed legislation to shift Oregon's energy supply to 100% renewable resources. Our union is neutral on the overall legislation, but we strongly urge that any legislation provide strong workforce standards and direct the development of long-duration storage capacity to meet anticipated demand.

Our members and those of other trades will be a critical partner in the creation of a clean energy economy. Ensuring the benefits of that transition flow to workers and our local economies through good-paying jobs and workforce standards is a critical way to sustain popular support for these policies and provide for shared prosperity. We strongly urge legislators to protect language for strong labor standards and workforce protections in HB 2021 or any other legislation approved this session that supports workforce development and siting of infrastructure within the state.

We ask that the bill include the requirement for utilities to begin investment in long duration storage over the next five years that was included in the other clean energy bills filed this session. Energy storage is a necessary component to provide stability and reliability to our grid as we move towards dependence on intermittent renewable energy resources. One such project, the proposed Swan Lake pumped energy storage facility in Klamath County, would create thousands of construction jobs for local workers with good wages and fair work conditions protected by a Project Labor Agreement.

We also believe that any legislation aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should include robust source options. In addition to pump-storage facilities, Renewable Natural Gas and Hydrogen are critical components in a green energy infrastructure.

We thank you for considering these important economic and workforce implications as we chart our state's energy future. They are the right moves for Oregon workers and urge you to ensure they are incorporated into any legislation adopted this session.

Sincerely,
Drew Waits
Business Agent/Organizer, UA 290

