

Tuesday, April 6th

TO: Chair Pam Marsh

CC: Vice-Chair Brock Smith, Vice-Chair Helm

Members of House Committee on Energy and Environment



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WA LEI #ONEILE1961LJ, WA MBE/DBE #D3M0023312

RE: House Bill 2021-5

By way of introduction, I am Maurice Rahming, the President and General Manager of O'Neill Construction Group, Inc., a general contracting enterprise that integrates self-performed electrical, masonry, carpentry and painting work with all aspects of construction management.

On behalf of O'Neill Construction Group, Inc., I hereby advocate for and support the inclusion of the following responsible contractor labor standards in **HB 2021-5**: (A) utilization of apprenticeship programs with graduation rates equal to or higher than the national average for each respective trade; (B) payment of prevailing wage rate for the same trade or occupation in the relevant locality in compliance with federal and state wage and hour laws; (C) provision of employer-paid health care and retirement benefits; (D) implementation of policies and hiring goals (15%) designed to promote contract equity standards, workplace diversity, equity and inclusion by the utilization of veterans, women, people of color and disadvantaged businesses and (E) demonstration of a history of compliance with state and federal laws.

A clean energy policy without comprehensive labor standards that promote skill building, good wages and benefits, pathways towards retirement and protection of vulnerable workers has the power to negatively affect the lives of workers in Oregon as well as its communities. In addition to the responsible contractor labor standards above, provision should be made in HB 2021-5 for the establishment of a Just Transition Fund to ease the transition of Oregon workers and its communities from the phase out of fossil fuel infrastructure. This fund will be utilized for retirement, retraining, relocation and wage supplementation of vulnerable workers and to support the communities to transition to a low carbon economy. Further, inclusion of projects for the advancement of community renewables which can deliver high volume of clean energy jobs will create benefit for our communities and create opportunities for local workers, thereby mitigating negative impacts of any job loss resulting from the transition to clean energy.

The above standards and proposals will cumulatively ensure jobs utilizing renewable energy solutions and storage resources

- hire locally, pay prevailing wage and reserve opportunities for apprenticeships;

electrical
contractor;
commercial
residential
industrial

- are good quality jobs for Oregon workers;
- will create inclusive career pathways for women, people of color, and veterans;
- will enable labor, apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship programs, contractors, and developers to collaborate to build Oregon's workforce;
- allows for skills development to enable Oregon workers participate in projects such as energy efficiency, school retrofits, transportation etc. which go beyond renewables; and
- will place Oregon in parity with other states who have passed or are in the process of passing their own 100% Renewable Portfolio Standards.

In conclusion, I restate my support on behalf of O'Neill Construction Group, Inc. for **HB 2021-5** as clean energy will contribute to the economic development of Oregon and its local energy resilience. O'Neill Construction Group, Inc. and its allies will continue to support efforts to refine and strengthen this bill to among others, ensure projects are built in Oregon and that the bill provides direct benefits to the communities in Oregon as well as its workers.

Ranfis Giannettino Villatoro with BlueGreen Alliance will be made available Wednesday to answer any further questions on the workforce standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rahming', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maurice Rahming
President/General Manager

For: O'Neill Construction Group, Inc.