



Testimony in Support of SB 678-3

Chris Hewitt
June 13, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 678, with the -3 amendments. My name is Chris Hewitt, and I am the Political Director for the Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers (LIUNA). We represent 4,000 construction workers in the state, many of whom work for contractors who build and maintain renewable energy infrastructure throughout the state, including solar and wind projects.

LIUNA supports SB 678 with the -3 amendments that will provide important funding to the Department of Land Conservation to support outreach and engagement of state agencies, local governments, and affected communities, with regard to offshore wind development in our Coastal region. We greatly appreciate that this legislation would encourage high-road labor standards and the creation of quality jobs through apprenticeships, workforce training and development, prevailing wage, project labor agreements, labor peace agreements and community benefit agreements.

The prospect of renewable offshore wind development represents a vital opportunity to help our state meet its decarbonization imperatives and stands to provide significant shared local economic benefit through sustaining numerous living wage careers for workers. SB 678 with the -3 amendments will help ensure that there is a deliberate stakeholder process going forward to support these goals which importantly considers local community concerns and potential impacts, so that this development can ultimately occur most responsibly and achieve fair outcomes for all who live and work throughout the region.

LIUNA urges your support for SB 678 with the -3 amendments.

Sincerely,

Chris Hewitt

Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers