



To: Chair Sollman
Vice-Chair Findley
Members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee

FR: Lorne Bulling, Ironworkers Local 29

RE: SB 124 Support

The Ironworkers Local 29 represent more than 1,400 journey workers and 300 apprentices across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 124 to help ensure that we have more pathways to get to 100 percent clean energy in the near future.

Collectively, our members have more than 1 million work hours building green energy in different communities across Oregon. From solar farms to wind turbines, to offshore wind and hydrogen facilities in the near future—we are excited about the opportunity to use our existing skills to build the energy infrastructure of the future.

The Building Trades were heavily involved in HB 2021 (2021), which created strong labor standards for future green energy projects in Oregon. Local 29 was involved because we understand the importance of transitioning to 100 percent clean energy to address climate change in a just way so workers are not left behind. The apprentice utilization requirements on large scale renewable energy infrastructure projects from HB 2021 means that these projects will help to create opportunities for apprentices to start a career. This is especially important to our rural communities, where many of the wind and solar farms are being built as it creates more career opportunities closer to home and helps to diversify rural economies.

Launching the hydrogen sector in Oregon will be important for workforce development, clean jobs, and skilled workers transitioning to new industries. Now is the perfect time for our state legislature to send a signal that we are moving forward to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by aligning our energy policies with other western states that have more advanced hydrogen economies, specifically with regard to hydrogen production, fuel cell vehicle deployment and hydrogen fueling infrastructure. We encourage your support of SB 124.