

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Sosa and Elmer and members of the Committee for the record my name is Samantha Deschenes and I've been a union ironworker apprentice for the last four years.

Some folks view labor standards as a burden to development or an extra cost on a project, but the truth is these requirements truly change lives for the better. The apprenticeship utilization requirement in this bill opens doors for women, people of color, and other groups who have not traditionally had the opportunity to work in construction or on green energy projects.

The other important part of HB 4080 is the funding for a roadmap that will give communities the chance to give input and help the state gather much needed information on the potential impacts of these projects. I cannot speak for other stakeholders, but I know that offshore wind will not only provide financial security for families like mine, but also propel Oregon closer to the 100% clean energy goals by 2040 that previous legislation set.

As a single mother to an amazing son, the opportunity to work on projects like offshore wind is an incredibly opportunity to provide for me and my son and help ensure there is a clean environment in his future. I hope you stand with me and my family in supporting HB 4080.