



February 12, 2024

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee,

My name is Monique De Boer with the Oregon Pacific-Cascade Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). I negotiate the collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) on behalf of our signatory contractors. I work with Bob Westerman, the Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers President/IBEW local 932 Business Manager, and other local area business managers to negotiate our CBAs specific to the IBEW jurisdictional areas.

When SB 493 passed in 2021, IBEW and NECA supported that legislation because we believed it would align with our collective bargaining agreements and create uniformity across the industry, whether signatory or open shop. But SB 493 created an unintended consequence for signatory electrical contractors throughout the state and specifically for those regions in which I negotiate the CBAs. Prior to 2021, we had a single scale in our corresponding jurisdictions. Now, my signatory contractors operate a split-scale system. This is because IBEW jurisdictions do not follow county lines or even state lines. They were created in 1928 and generally follow similar-aligned regions.

One example of the problem we are trying to fix is found in a narrow slice of northern Yamhill County, which is covered by our sister local (IBEW Local 48) that also covers the Portland metropolitan and SW Washington region. Because a small portion of Yamhill County is covered by our metro area partner, under SB 493 all of Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties are now included in one metro area. We now have a two-scale system because Local 280 covers more than just Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. (See attached map.)

This also impacts us along the coast and in southern Oregon. The boundaries of our Oregon Local IBEW areas are not subject to negotiation but are determined solely by the IBEW International President. Our jurisdictional boundaries have been in place since 1928 and are well understood by our member contractors and the business managers we work with.

We have asked BOLI to recognize our longstanding jurisdictional maps and they have told us SB 493 ties their hands. We are left with only one option: a technical fix to SB 493. We bring this to the Legislature in full partnership with IBEW and ask that you please make this small change so that we can recognize our long-standing boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monique de Boer", written over a horizontal line.

Monique De Boer, Executive Manager
Oregon Pacific-Cascade NECA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Westerman", written over a horizontal line.

Robert (Bob) Westerman, President
Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers