

February 27, 2025

TO: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

RE: Support for HB 2410

Chair Lively, Co-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee;

The Ironworkers Local 29, Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers (OSAEW), IBEW Local 48, and UA Local 290 Plumbers and Steamfitters urge support for HB 2410. Our respective unions are committed to training Oregon’s skilled workforce through state-registered apprenticeship programs and ensuring that workers are paid fairly for their labor.

The Oregon Legislature passed HB 2021 in 2021, a transformational climate policy that directs Oregon’s utilities and electricity service suppliers to get their retail electricity sales to 100% clean energy by 2040 and includes labor standards on how energy infrastructure is built. We need to build clean energy generation and look at many different forms of clean firm resources to meet this goal.

According to the US Department of Energy’s 2024 [Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Advanced Nuclear](#) report, “nuclear does not “displace” or “compete with” renewables; decarbonization will require both new nuclear and renewable capacity. Including nuclear and other clean firm resources reduces the cost of decarbonization by reducing the need for additional variable generation capacity, energy storage, and transmission.” It is clear from the data that nuclear has an essential role in the energy transition as a clean firm complement to renewables.

The expansion and build out of nuclear power has the potential to create a vast new wave of high wage, family sustaining jobs in renewable energy in construction, maintenance, and operation. A [2022 study](#) commissioned by the US DOE found that nuclear is one of the few power generation methods that can keep the volume of high-paying jobs that retiring coal plants provided to communities. For the skilled trades, it is vital to our members that a just transition to not happen on the backs of workers by depressing wages, and where possible preserves high quality jobs in the communities most impacted by the shift to 100% clean energy—nuclear energy does just this.

Nuclear energy will play a critical role in decarbonization, energy security, reliability, and affordability while providing and sustaining family wage union jobs. We ask for your support of HB 2410 to advance the conversation around nuclear energy in Oregon and allow the residents of Umatilla County to decide.

