



March 25, 2025

Re: Intent of the -3 Amendment to HB 2688

Chair Grayber, Vice-chairs Elmer and Munoz, and Members of the Committee,

The proponents of HB 2688 would like to take a moment to recognize the hard work of all the parties involved in crafting the -3 amendment to the bill. It is in recognition of those efforts that we want to specifically explain the language changes to the electrical system and component coverage in (iii), for the record.

The complicated nature and importance of the electrical industry in Oregon cannot be overstated. It is for this reason that we worked with industry representatives from both labor (IBEW) and industry (NECA) on a way to draft the bill that would ensure a positive impact on the electrical industry without disrupting the business practices and long-standing agreements.

Through that process, all sides agreed upon the following language:

“(iii) Electrical systems or components of electrical systems that conform with the requirements of ORS 479.510 to 479.945 as defined by the Oregon Electrical and Elevator Board by rule;”

The intent is both to ensure that prevailing wage determinations do not influence electrical licensing, and that the electrical industry (through the Electrical and Elevator Board) has the say in which products qualify as covered electrical system components. The intent was to ensure that manufacturing exemptions and definitions were written in conformance with NFPA 70, by professionals within the industry. Due to the difficulties with drafting language in statute to meet the needs of an every-changing industry, we agreed to defer to the existing rulemaking process, to allow the experts to keep the lists of covered components up to date.

We write now to express that, although the language in the -3 amendment varies slightly from the language above, we feel that it operates in the same fashion as what was originally agreed upon by the stakeholders.

Respectfully,

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