



May 7, 2013

Dear Chair Dingfelder and members of Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I would like to follow-up on testimony I gave to your committee yesterday afternoon on HB 2893, which extends the sunset on the pilot program to incentivize solar photovoltaic systems. IBEW supports HB 2893 and the Volumetric Incentive Rate program. We believe this is an important program to increase installation and utilization of solar and small scale wind power generated at consumers' homes.

The concern I raised yesterday relates to a clarification to the program language to specify that installation of solar generation facilities at a consumer's home must be done by licensed electricians and in compliance with all applicable permitting and licensing requirements contained in ORS 447, 455, 479 and 693.

I am raising my concern now in hopes that when the program is re-evaluated in 2015 (when the new sunset will expire) this will be an item and amendment for consideration. It is an important clarification to ensure that all solar installation work is done by the appropriate trained and licensed professionals, as is already required by law. This is a public safety issue.

I recognize that the current version of HB 2893 is the product of a long workgroup comprised of advocates, utilities and legislators. Although IBEW 48 did not participate in this workgroup, we are always happy to participate in workgroups related to solar installations and incentive programs. We are eager to be included in future workgroups on this issue and look forward to participating in those efforts next session.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions about this proposal. Thank you.

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CC: Representative Jeff Reardon
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Ryan Pasho, Sierra Club
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