



IBEW Local 125

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

May 9, 2013

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Business and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 125, I am writing today in support of HB 2203-A. IBEW Local 125 represents approximately 3,500 members who work in the Pacific Northwest's electric utility business.

In our industry, safety is always a primary concern for IBEW Local 125, our employer partners, and our members. We support efforts like HB 2203-A to ensure our members' safety. Our members represent a variety of crafts such as linemen, wiremen, and tree trimmers. These men and women work every day to "keep the lights on."

HB 2203-A addresses tie lines that connect energy facilities such as wind farms to the electrical grid. This bill is intended to clarify responsibility for the safety and operation of generation tie-lines that are owned by one entity but operated within existing utilities' jurisdiction, often in rural areas served by electric cooperatives or utility districts.

In the event of an emergency or accident, the utility is responsible for repair and/or restoration. Our members' safety is at risk because the utility does not know who owns the tie-line which means they don't know if the line is energized. Without that knowledge, it takes longer to ensure they can restore power safely. HB 2203-A simply requires the project owner to update the Oregon Public Utility Commission with current operational and emergency contact information. It also requires that the PUC be notified of new tie-lines and if a new owner acquires it.

IBEW Local 125 urges your support and passage of HB 2203-A to help ensure safe working conditions for our members in the field. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcy Graff".

Marcy Graff, PHR
Assistant Business Manager
IBEW Local 125