



www.ibew48.com



## HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

---

TO: Chair Jessica Vega Peterson and Committee Members  
Support of HB 3470  
April 14, 2014

FR: Robin Rabirotff  
Business Development  
IBEW Local 48

### IBEW LOCAL 48 SUPPORTS ADDRESSING CLIMATE STABILITY AND JUSTICE AND GROWING CLEAN ECONOMY JOBS

---

The IBEW represents over 700,000 members nationally, and close to 9000 members in the State of Oregon. Here in Portland we represent 5000 men and women under several agreements. All earning a living family wage job, with healthcare and benefits. Their earnings support not only our members and their families, but the communities we live in every day.

It is the quality of life in these communities which is why IBEW 48 is weighing in today. The Climate Stability Act will create a process for all stakeholders to have input, and we strongly support inclusion of an environmental justice task force.

Our members need jobs. We support special consideration and protection for workers in high-energy intensive industries and we want to emphasize the importance of maximizing goods jobs and benefits into new market sectors. We have skilled workers who can install solar panels and do electrical work for residential, workplace, and public charging stations for electric vehicles. We do truck stop electrification which reduces diesel idling, saving money and greenhouse gas pollution. There are hundreds of truck transfer depots throughout the state where we can mitigate carbon by installing an electrical outlet to run the refrigeration unit on the truck. This measure alone will save tons of carbon from being released into the atmosphere, and save millions of dollars in fuel costs by simply providing a means to turn off the diesel engine and allow refrigeration to continue when transferring goods.

Currently most dollars spent on fossil fuels go out of state—Oregon has no oil refineries and we import most of our coal power. Consequently much of the money our members spend on energy goes out of state. We have an opportunity to drive markets for renewable energy, cleaner transportation, and less energy waste that create jobs, but also addresses climate change. The Climate stability Act builds on successful efforts in California where the clean energy economy is growing.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 48  
15937 NE Airport Way Portland, OR 97230-4958 Phone: 503-256-4848 Fax: 503-251-9952

Labor had a strong seat at the table in California, and we think hitting climate targets can be done fairly and affordably. Many of our workers will feel the effects of climate change. Many work outdoors, so are vulnerable to extreme heat and weather. We care about air quality and the health of our families. Climate change will make asthma and allergies worse and bring exposure to new diseases. We have a responsibility to protect not just our members, but all workers.

States that have limited climate pollution have built bigger clean energy sectors. That means more jobs. Clean energy is also good for our economy now and in the long-run: electricity is 3 to 4 times cheaper than gasoline to power cars, and renewable energy has free fuel and doesn't depend on water, making it a more stable choice as we face increasing drought and water uncertainty.

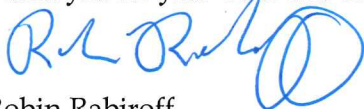
The argument against climate change and global warming is over. When the atmospheric imbalance caused by excess Ozone was realized back in the 1980's, nations across the globe adopted the Montreal Protocol. We have as great a threat to humankind now as then. Will we do nothing? Just recently, the UN released reports that if we don't act now to mitigate humankind's contribution to greenhouse gases that we are heading for dire consequences.

The IBEW Local 48 as well as nationally has a tremendous fiduciary responsibility to its members. We believe that Diversity in the market place is healthy. The IBEW Local 48 likes market-based program, providing more choices without new mandates. We believe many climate programs can be designed around market-based solutions.

We also want to be part of conversations that determine how potential carbon revenue can be re-invested to create family-paying wage jobs here in Oregon. Oregon has many priorities that are currently unfunded.

In conclusion, Oregon needs a comprehensive way to address climate pollution. The Climate Stability Act commits Oregon to known, definable goals—that were already set by this legislature—and that create certainty for different stakeholders.

Thank you for your Time and Consideration,



Robin Rabihoff  
Business Development  
IBEW Local 48  
Direct: 503.889.3681  
Cell: 503.789.9468

