



February 1, 2016

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair, House Energy & Environment Committee
Members, House Energy & Environment Committee

Organized Labor in Support of HB 4037

RE: Support for HB 4037

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Building & Construction Trades Council, IBEW 48, and the Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers (consisting of all 7 IBEW Locals in Oregon) we urge the committee to support HB 4037, and believe that this modest investment will create hundreds of living wage jobs in Oregon, while spurring greater investment in renewable energy development here in Oregon.

Oregon is uniquely poised to become a leader in renewable energy production, specifically with large-scale solar. We have a workforce that is well trained and experienced at building solar projects. Our members can easily meet the demand of new projects and are eager to get back to work.

Renewable energy projects in Oregon create good living wage jobs. Our members work on nearly all of the large-scale solar development projects in Oregon. The average wage for those employees building large-scale solar projects is \$70,000 per year and up, plus benefits. Most of these solar projects are built in rural communities where these new jobs become a huge economic boost to hurting rural economies. HB 4037 would spur investment for large-scale solar projects, and with it, create hundreds of new, family and union wage jobs.

The Great Recession hit Oregon hard. And no one suffered more than working class Oregonians. Though much of the state's economy has recovered, many working class families still need good jobs. HB 4037 would create hundreds of good, family wage jobs for those working class families that need them the most. We urge your support for working families and we urge your support for HB 4037.

Sincerely,



**OREGON STATE BUILDING &
CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Mohlis', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John Mohlis
Executive Secretary
Oregon State Building Trades Council

Joe Esmonde
IBEW Local 48

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Krieg', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers (OSAEW)
Brian Krieg