



IBEW Local 125

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

State of Oregon
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Senate Bills 978
April 3, 2017

Good afternoon, Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee. I apologize for not being able to testify in person today, but I wanted to submit the following testimony. My name is Marcy Grail, and I am an assistant business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 125. We represent approximately 3,300 members who work in the Pacific Northwest's electric utility business.

We have a membership base that works for contractors, utilities, and an independent power producer. Our electrical system's safety, reliability, and affordability is reliant on **both utilities and IPPs**. Rate payers need competition to create checks and balances. IBEW Local 125 recognizes the important role that independent power producers have, but any legislation that eliminates utilities from having the ability to produce their own generation is a bad idea. Their investments help rate payers and our memberships. Without those investments, rate payers won't benefit, and in many cases, workers won't either.

Our employer partners, the single IPP, provide family-wage jobs that ensure our members, their families, and ultimately, communities have the needed resources to thrive. We don't know if foreign entities with different objectives and without the same regulatory requirements will provide those same benefits. However, economic benefits are not the priority issue that I want to address.

Our members work in a regulated environment that helps maintain the electrical system in a fair way that protects the customers economically but more importantly, their safety. Electrical work has inherent dangers, which our skilled and well-trained members mitigate each day—not only for their personal safety but the public.

IBEW Local 125 is opposed to Senate Bills 978. We respectfully ask you to consider the necessity of this bill when our current model provides the required safety, competition, and stability expected for the Pacific Northwest allow the Public Utility Commission to manage this issue.

If you have questions or need more information about IBEW Local 125's position, please contact Marcy Grail, IBEW Local 125 Assistant Business Manager, at 503-804-3401 or marcy@ibew125.com.