

HB 4059 – Clean Energy Careers for All Refinement Bill



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Oregon State Association
of Electrical Workers

Our coalition asks the committee to adopt the -3 amendment and pass HB 4059

Background

In 2021 the legislature passed HB 2021, the 100% Clean Energy for All Bill. The bill was an important step forward in decarbonizing the power sector in Oregon. It set a 100% zero-emission electricity standard for Oregon investor-owned utilities and electricity service suppliers by 2040 and new labor standards for new renewable energy projects and repowering work in Oregon.

Labor and renewable energy developers agreed to a framework to create an inclusive career pathway for Oregonians by utilizing Oregon's apprenticeship programs and setting key goals for veterans, women, BIPOC, and workers with disabilities. The legislation called for two compliance pathways to meet the standards. Unfortunately, the final gavel went down before there was time to finish refining the details.

Legislative solution

Renewable energy developers and labor have worked together to further refine the reasonable labor standards proposed in HB 4059. ***HB 4059 is needed to ensure clarity on implementation for utilities, developers, contractors, and ensure opportunities for Oregon workers.***

What HB 4059 with the -3 amendment does

The proposed updates to the 100% Clean Energy for All Bill:

- (1) Clarify that a project labor agreement (PLA) negotiated between developers and representatives of labor is an alternative compliance option, in lieu of labor requirements in HB 2021.
- (2) Clarify that a developer attestation covers all the labor standards.
- (3) Adjust a definition to use the correct term for prevailing wage.
- (4) Clarify that state labor standards don't affect tribal jurisdictions (consistent with current law).
- (5) Refine what constitutes a good faith attempt to comply with the apprenticeship standards.
- (6) Update apprenticeship opportunities from 10 MW to 2 MW while maintaining wage, retirement, and health standards at 10MW and above.
- (7) Maintain exemption for Community Solar projects up to 3 MW AC in size from the labor standards. Clarify that projects will still use apprentices in construction but will not have to comply with reporting requirements.
- (8) Clarify that the labor provisions enacted by HB 2021 are minimum standards and do not otherwise prohibit covered projects from exceeding the base requirements or including additional standards.

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