



June 13, 2023

To: Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 678. For the record my name is Lorne Bulling, and I am the political coordinator for the Ironworkers Local 29. Local 29 represents more than 300 registered apprentices and 1,400 journey workers across Oregon and Southwest Washington.

We are here today in support of SB 678 and the -3 amendment that would provide funding for DLCD to work on outreach and engagement with state agencies, local governments, and affected communities. This is a vital step in moving our state forward together as we consider building new green energy infrastructure and promoting economic diversification and resilience.

We have Journeyworkers and apprentices who live with their families in the areas that will be directly affected. Union Ironworkers erected the turbines off Block Island in Rhode Island, the first offshore wind project in the United States. And if offshore wind comes to Oregon, Local 29 members are ready to begin work as well as start training the next generation of offshore wind construction workers with a focused first look at recruiting from the communities housing the infrastructure.

We strongly agree with the coastal community and advocates that the benefits related to and coming from offshore wind projects should remain within the region of the project. The bill intends to address this issue and we urge the committee to join us in our support for SB 678.

Respectfully,

Lorne Bulling
Political Coordinator, Ironworkers Local 29