

PGE Support for SB 582-1: Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program

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At PGE, electric reliability is at the core of our business, and we recognize that EV charger reliability is essential as the transportation system transitions to electric vehicles. Senate Bill 582 supports charger reliability by building and maintaining a workforce qualified and experienced in the electrical infrastructure for EV charging projects.

PGE believes the transition to a clean energy future must be equitable, inclusive, and provide opportunities for all Oregonians. Of utmost importance to the equitable transition is the creation of quality jobs that support workers, including self-sustaining wages and opportunities for training. After hearing from a variety of stakeholders at the end of 2021 about the need to ensure the clean energy workforce pipeline being built was equitable and inclusive, PGE convened the Oregon Clean Energy Workforce Coalition. Today, the coalition has 90 participants representing 60 different organizations including state agencies, labor unions, workforce investment boards, education providers, utilities, renewable developers, CBOs, local governments, and policy makers. We are finalizing our strategic plan that establishes short, medium, and long term goals, and have established subcommittees to identify critical needs, barriers for workers, and training/education pathways. The coalition's work is centered on avoiding duplication of efforts, leveraging best practices and lessons learned from others, and collaboration to build a framework that will provide opportunities for all who want to participate in the clean energy workforce.

As we collectively look to build the clean energy workforce in Oregon, bills like SB 582 that support quality jobs and leverage a proven training program are critical. By requiring that one or more electricians who hold an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program certification supervise or participate in the electrical installation work for chargers funded or authorized by a state agency, the state is ensuring the continuous learning cycle that will be needed for the rapidly evolving energy sector. PGE's own EV charger installation and maintenance crews have already completed the EVITP training, and we intend to require the training for relevant future employees. Quite simply, the training ensures that qualified electricians have the most up to date training and information required do their jobs safely.

SB 582 ensures the clean energy workforce installing and maintaining EV charging infrastructure have all the tools in their toolbox to be successful. We urge the committee's support of this bill.

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