



April 20, 2023

Chair Fahey and Members of the House Rules Committee,

My name is Monique De Boer with the Oregon Pacific-Cascade Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association. I negotiate the collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) on behalf of our signatory contractors (we only use union workers for regulated electrical work) with the local IBEW jurisdictional areas LU280, LU659, LU932 and their business managers. Both Drew Lindsey and I are unavailable on April 20 for in-person testimony but want you to know why we have asked for HB 3608.

When SB493 passed in 2021, we supported that legislation because we believed it would align with our collective bargaining agreements and create uniformity across the industry, whether signatory or open shop. But SB493 created an unintended consequence for signatory electrical contractors for those regions in which I negotiate the CBA. Prior to 2021, we had a single scale in our corresponding jurisdictions. Now my signatory contractors operate a split-scale system. This is because IBEW CBA jurisdictions do not follow county lines or even state lines. They were created in 1928 and generally follow similar-aligned regions.

One example of the problem we are trying to fix is found in a narrow slice of northern Yamhill County, which is covered by our sister local (IBEW Local 48) that also covers the Portland metropolitan and SW Washington region. Because a small portion of Yamhill County is covered by our metro area partner, under SB493 all of Yamhill, Polk and Marion counties are now included in one metro area. We now have a two-scale system because Local 280 covers more than just Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties. (See attached map.)

The boundaries of our Oregon Local IBEW areas are not subject to negotiation but are determined solely by the IBEW International president. Our jurisdictional boundaries have been in place since 1928 and are well understood by our member contractors and the business managers we work with.

We have asked BOLI to recognize our longstanding jurisdictional maps and they have told us SB493 ties their hands. We have asked our local IBEW partners for a remedy and they have indicated the IBEW jurisdictions are set by the international and are not subject to change, nor can they be bargained locally. **CBAs in the IBEW system do not establish jurisdictional boundaries; the international sets the boundaries.**

We are left with only one option: a technical fix to SB493. We bring this to the Legislature in full partnership with Local 280 (the IBEW local impacted the most by SB493) and ask that you please make this small change so that we can recognize our long-standing boundaries.

Thank you for consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique De Boer".

Monique De Boer
Executive Manager, Oregon Pacific-Cascade NECA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Drew Lindsey".

Drew Lindsey
Business Manager, IBEW Local 280