



May 3, 2023

To: Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod
Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

FR: Lorne Bulling, Ironworkers Local 29

RE: SB 5506 Support

The Ironworkers Local 29 represents more than 1,400 journey workers and 300 apprentices across Oregon and Southwest Washington. We would like to request that the Committee consider funding for transportation and emergency backup power hydrogen demonstration projects as outlined in SB 124 and SB 125. These proposals will help ensure that we have more pathways to get to 100 percent clean energy and clean fuels in the near future.

Collectively, our members have more than 1 million work hours building green energy in different communities across Oregon. From solar farms to wind turbines, to offshore wind and hydrogen facilities soon—we are excited about the opportunity to use our existing skills to build the energy infrastructure of the future.

The Building Trades collectively were heavily involved in HB 2021 (2021), which created strong labor standards for future green energy projects in Oregon. Local 29 was involved because we understand the importance of transitioning to 100 percent clean energy to address climate change in a just way, so workers are not left behind. The apprentice utilization requirements on large scale renewable energy infrastructure projects from HB 2021 means that these projects will help to create opportunities for apprentices to start a career. This is especially important to our rural communities, where many of the wind and solar farms are being built as it creates more career opportunities closer to home and helps to diversify rural economies.

Launching the hydrogen sector in Oregon will be important for workforce development, clean jobs, and skilled workers transitioning to new industries. Now is the perfect time for our state legislature to send a signal that we are moving forward to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by aligning our energy policies with other western states that have more advanced hydrogen economies, specifically with regard to hydrogen production, fuel cell vehicle deployment and hydrogen fueling infrastructure. We encourage your inclusion of these projects in the state budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these important issues.

Lorne Bulling