

Good morning, thank you for listening to my comments. My name is Elizabeth Kleene, I live in Portland and am currently a 4th year electrical apprentice at local 567. I wanted to voice my support for LD 1969. Bills like this must pass if we're serious about counteracting climate change and transitioning to a clean energy economy.

I completely support renewable energy, but I feel these new jobs in renewable energy must be competitive with jobs in the current petroleum economy. I don't see a viable way to transition to renewables if we take away millions of well-paying jobs that have good benefits and try to replace them with jobs that pay a fraction of what these workers formerly made in salary and benefits. The same standards must be applied in renewable energy as to petroleum based jobs to facilitate a smooth transition and make progress toward a sustainable future.

Over the past 4 years I've worked on 7 huge solar fields and many, many residential homes. I've worked for both union and non-union companies. One issue I want to stress is how difficult and dangerous this kind of work is. Even if the project is not electrically complex, a typical solar installation is physically very demanding and inherently dangerous. Falling and ladder work are the leading cause of injuries in the construction industry. Solar installations are dangerous because you are mostly either on a roof or a ladder, and the heavy weight of solar panels which are usually lifted or hoisted by hand. From my experience in working on large solar fields, I can tell you that in winter, this work involves moving and climbing a 12-24 'ladder hundreds of times a day, setting the ladder on very uneven ground, on top of piles of snow or on sheets of ice, heavy winds, in freezing to sub-zero temperatures, often in extreme precipitation. In Maine summers, the temperature on roofs is often over 145 degrees, and even on the ground the heat can be extreme and the work is dangerous and demanding.

You need 4 years of classes and 8,000 hours of job site training to apply for an electrical journeyman license. I really wouldn't hire

anyone to do work on any part of my home electrical system without that training and I wouldn't want people working on government infrastructure without the same training.