

Senate Business, Labor, & Technology

04/25/2023 02:00 PM

SB23-292 Labor Reqmnts For Energy Sector Construction

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Jose Soto For Laborers' Local 720	<p>COMMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE LABORERS' LOCAL 720:</p> <p>Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the time to speak to you today. My name is Jose Soto, I am a proud 17 year member of the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 720. As a construction craft Laborer working in Colorado, I receive family supporting wages, health insurance benefits, a pension retirement plan, safe working conditions and representation on the job.</p> <p>In order to grow the future of the energy sector, we must promote family supporting wages, labor standards, and apprenticeship requirements, while also maintaining a level of compliance in the industry. This includes transitioning Coloradans from the fossil fuel industry into the renewable energy sector.</p> <p>We have seen unfortunate situations in Colorado when these standards are not in place. We have seen entire sectors go to low wage, out of state and temporary agency filled worker positions because of the lack of compliance and labor standards within industries such as the renewable energy sector. Furthermore, many future projects could include potential funding from the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act, the inflation reduction act, and the chips and science act, that uphold similar standards for public, state or federally utilized funds. This includes apprenticeship utilization, Justice40 Initiatives, local hire and other labor standards.</p> <p>This bill will allow the structure to be in place of upholding standards that will keep workers local and will allow transparency in the public works process. While the language does encourage this, we want to stress a couple vital points needed for this bill to be successful. First, we want to ensure that the language will provide inclusivity across all registered apprenticeship programs. Second, we want to ensure that this language does not exclude key construction trades that work in the energy industry in Colorado, those other than licensed crafts. Lastly, we want to state that a true transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy should be made with Colorado workers in mind.</p> <p>We appreciate the work done on this bill thus far, and we look forward to seeing where the legislative process takes this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

	Sincerely,
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