

INCREASE ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION CAPACITY

BUILD A UNION-MADE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

Washingtonians have repeatedly affirmed their support for state investments in clean-energy infrastructure, creating family-wage jobs and building climate resiliency in communities state-wide.

THE PROBLEM

Across the state, Washington is losing good jobs and economic development because of avoidable barriers for clean-energy projects.

Despite the appetite for clean-energy infrastructure, Washington ranks last in renewable energy growth.



THE SOLUTION

The legislature should pass legislation to leverage our existing transmission system (HB 1819), improve the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) process (SB 6010/HB 2496), make it easier to build new transmission (SB 5466), and oppose legislation that increases taxes for most clean energy projects (HB 1960).

- **Lack of transmission capacity is a central roadblock to future economic development and meeting clean energy mandates.** The Bonneville Power Administration and utilities are not building transmission at the pace we need. SB 5466 establishes a Washington Electric Transmission Authority (WETA) to provide the state with another tool to build transmission, partnering with independent transmission developers and utilities to build highest-need transmission lines that are otherwise not being built.
- **Rapidly increasing the capacity of our existing grid will create jobs for lineworkers as well as workers in other trades who will be able to finally build projects that haven't yet been able to connect to Washington's grid.** HB 1819 exempts these reconductoring projects from certain bottleneck-creating reviews while still preserving cultural resources review when necessary.
- **Ensuring open communication with tribal nations is essential for clean energy development.** SB 6010/HB 2496 would exempt some conversations between tribal leaders and EFSEC from the state's open public meetings act, allowing for more efficient and respectful dialogue.
- **Carefully setting rates ensures Washington doesn't lose more jobs and economic development to other states or increase utility bills when costs are passed to ratepayers.** Unfortunately, as currently drafted, HB 1960 represents a significant increase in taxes for most clean energy projects. Legislators should oppose this bill that threatens progress in clean-energy infrastructure development.

Learn more at wslc.org

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