

A Resolution in Support of Battery Energy Storage Systems

Resolution #2025.07

WHEREAS, in order to address the climate crisis, we need more renewable energy. Sources like wind and solar provide intermittent energy which must be stored in batteries to provide power when there is no sun or wind; and,

WHEREAS, misinformation has led to local governments banning the development of battery energy storage systems. But we cannot meet our renewable energy goals and respond to climate change without battery storage systems; and,

WHEREAS, the November 2024 “bomb cyclone” knocked out power for a week. During the 2021 heat dome, over 400 Washingtonians died. Disaster planning experts dread scenarios where extreme heat is combined with power outages. Backup power, which is already required in some critical facilities, is likely to become essential public safety infrastructure as climate change worsens; and,

WHEREAS, battery Energy Storage systems could be physically connected via underground cabling to critical sites such as schools, community centers, or residential neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, the development of battery energy storage systems creates good union jobs. The development of battery energy storage systems should be accompanied by appropriate support for firefighters and other safety professionals who are responsible for these systems; now therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, the Washington State Labor Council calls on the Washington State Legislature and State agencies to support the development of battery energy storage systems through means such as community education, resources to workers, and incentives.