



OREGON'S SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act

As the economy transitions to clean and renewable sources of energy, there is an opportunity and responsibility to ensure the creation of good-paying union jobs in all aspects of the growing clean energy industry. We can learn from examples like [Block Island](#), which worked closely with Rhode Island Building Trades members to plan, advance, and build the first offshore wind project in the United States.

The clean energy sector is booming and the Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act would make sure the new jobs in that sector are high-quality, safe, living wage, union jobs on which people can support their families, build the supply chain, and advance U.S. competitiveness.

Creating Family Wage Jobs in the Clean Energy Economy

The Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act would establish high-road labor standards including:

- Clear employment and safety standards through the Project Labor Agreement process.
- Davis-Bacon prevailing wages and benefits.
- No mandatory arbitration.
- Strong worker classification standards to ensure bone fide employees are not misclassified as independent contractors.
- Ban the use of temporary staffing agencies unless the State workforce agency certifies that temporary employees are necessary to address an acute, short-term labor demand.
- Explicit neutrality policy on all collective bargaining issues.
- “Ban the box” hiring policy to ensure people with criminal histories have a fair chance to gain employment.
- Apprenticeship eligibility for at least 20% of all jobs in each craft.

If a company meets these labor standards, they would be eligible for additional tax incentives as described below for their clean energy, manufacturing, or energy efficiency projects.

Building Clean Energy Infrastructure and Technology in America

The Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act would drive development of American clean energy infrastructure and technology by:

- Creating a new 10% tax credit for qualifying clean energy generation facilities, storage, complete carbon capture technologies, manufacturing, and energy efficiency projects.
- Codifying and expanding the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative, with a specific directive to develop domestic clean energy supply chains.
- Providing grants to manufacturers to improve their own energy efficiency, energy use, and competitiveness.
- Directing the Secretary of Energy to consider labor standards in loan guarantees under the Title XVII Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee Program.

Jump-Starting Workforce Training and Development

The bill also creates a Clean Jobs Workforce Hub within the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative to convene unions, employers, industry and stakeholders to ensure adequate training and workforce development programs are in place to meet the needs of the clean energy future.

Cosponsored by: Senators Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Smith, Booker, Harris, Stabenow, Brown, Hirono, Schatz, and Bennet.
Endorsed by: AFL-CIO, Blue Green Alliance, United Steelworkers, LIUNA, NRDC, Utility Workers, the Union of Concerned Scientists, IBEW, the National Wildlife Federation, the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, and Data for Progress.