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How DOE Engages with Labor Stakeholders

Christy Veeder, PhD | Senior Advisor



Message from Secretary Granholm

"We want these good-paying, union-friendly jobs in every pocket of the country." - Center for Energy Workforce Development EnergyCareers 2021

"I agreed to serve as Secretary of Energy in this administration because I am absolutely obsessed with creating good-paying, union jobs... And I am absolutely convinced that clean energy will be the most powerful engine for job creation this century." - United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Executive Secretary-Treasurer Meeting, Oct. 2021





Administration Priorities

Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad:

"... opportunities to create well-paying union jobs to build a modern and sustainable infrastructure, deliver an equitable, clean energy future"

Executive Order on Worker Organizing and Empowerment:

"... evidence shows that union membership increases wages, the likelihood of receiving employer-provided benefits, and job security ... it is the policy of my Administration to encourage worker organizing"





Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Overarching Values

The biggest investment in DOE since its founding allows us to:

- Fund programs that can enable our economy to become more resilient, equitable, and sustainable
- Enhance U.S. competitiveness in the world
- Diversify regional economies, especially around manufacturing and supply chain industries
- Ensure greater access to economic and other benefits for underserved communities
- Support the creation of good jobs with the free choice to join a union



Building on Existing Workforce Engagement

- Range of existing labor and workforce initiatives DOE:
 - Weatherization assistance program
 - Better Buildings Accelerator
- Growing internal resources to provide more comprehensive labor outreach and coordination
- Engaging earlier, more frequently, and more proactively with unions and other labor stakeholders



How DOE Engages with Labor

Workforce outreach mirrors our engagement with industry, labs, community, environmental and EJ stakeholders:

- Encouraging input throughout the funding opportunity development process (RFIs, FOAs)
- Requests from labor stakeholders
- Labor-focused stakeholder roundtables
- Labor working group



Photo credit: NREL 61981 / Dennis Schroeder



BIL Workforce Priorities

Incorporating strong labor standards:

 Strong health & safety standards, predictable work schedules, processes for dispute resolution

High-road workforce development:

 Job access for marginalized and historically underrepresented workers; registered apprenticeship and quality preapprenticeship programs

Supporting good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union



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Interagency and White House-led Efforts

- DOL's Good Jobs Summit; MOU with DOL
- Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities
- White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, Talent Pipeline Challenge
- Interagency policy committees
- Use of the Defense Production Act (DPA) to accelerate domestic production of clean energy technologies



Building the Energy Workforce

We're eager to hear your thoughts, questions, and ideas:

- What are your forecasts for growing your team?
- How are you envisioning what quality job creation could look like on future projects
- Challenges and opportunities?



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Programs:

https://www.energy.gov/bil/bipartisan-infrastructure-lawprograms

christy.veeder@hq.doe.gov

