

Statement of Amber McCoy
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Before

Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
The Department of Energy

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Re: Workforce of the Clean Energy Economy

Secretary Granholm and members of the Secretary's Advisory Board. Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today about how the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, the Carpenters International Training Fund, and signatory contractors are preparing for and contributing to the workforce of the clean energy economy.

My name is Amber McCoy. I am a technical coordinator for the Carpenters International Training Fund ("CITF"). I have twenty years of experience in the carpentry trade, and I graduated from the carpenters apprenticeship program in 2010.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America ("UBC") has a membership of close to a half a million throughout the United States and Canada. The UBC supports the goals of the administration. We are a partner in the fight against climate change and ready to help grow our renewable energy capabilities and build a middle class that represents America's diversity.

Our carpentry crafts are instrumental in the building of renewable energy facilities, whether they be hydroelectric, solar, or wind, on land or at sea. Much of this kind of work falls within our carpentry, millwright, pile driver and diver crafts. Hands-on training is provided to members at 200 plus training facilities throughout the country, free of charge--a debt free education.¹ Our training prepares apprentices and journey level workers to work productively, efficiently, and safely to install and maintain renewable energy resources. The UBC has a renewable energy committee that tracks technological changes, and workforce needs and updates our training and recruiting to maintain our members' skills in a rapidly changing industry.²

¹ UBC-affiliated regional council and contractor representatives jointly administer the operations at some 220 training facilities with 4,500 full and part-time instructors across the country.

² *Smart Strategies in Renewable Energy*, <https://ubcmillwrights.org/industry-specialization/renewable-energy> .

The CITF, UBC regional councils and signatory contractors are prepared to scale up our training to meet the needs of any clean energy project. The CITF has Train-the-Trainer programs that teach instructors who then train our members. For example, our Solar Installer Qualification course has graduated 179 qualified instructors to date. Twenty-one of these instructors are from the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, and they have trained 1,367 individuals in solar installation and solar installation safety. Of the people trained in that region, 800 are apprentices, and 297 are woman and racial minorities.

In another example, the Double Black Diamond project will be a 592-megawatt facility in Illinois. At its peak, it will employ 435 trades workers, 200 of which will be carpenters. To supply workers for the project, the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council is recruiting workers from the local community. To date, their workforce participation for women and people of color is at 29 percent.³

The UBC members are paid according to our collective-bargaining agreements with signatory contractors, so along with their debt free education they are being paid good wages with family healthcare and retirement benefits.

Again, we support the administration's goals to build up our renewable energy resources. The UBC is excited to have the opportunity and we are prepared to recruit and train a middle class that looks like America.

Thank you for your time.

Amber McCoy

³ You can see a video from the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council ("MACRC"), on the construction of the Double Black Diamond Solar project at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUoFxc3K8s>.