

RESOLUTION #16

Clean Energy Jobs

Submitted by Delegate Michael Clemmons, IBEW Local 176

WHEREAS, millions of good jobs can be created in the clean energy industry that will help to stem carbon emissions by minimizing reliance on fossil fuels and the ravaging effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the production, transportation, and distribution of electrical energy are critical to the success of the U.S. economy and requires new investments in a clean energy infrastructure to create good jobs and ensure stable energy production; and

WHEREAS, solar, wind, and nuclear energy, and the jobs those industries create, are practical, safe, carbon free and an economic source of clean electrical power available today that does not pollute the air nor produce carbon dioxide avoiding emission of millions of tons of sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon pollutants; and

WHEREAS, Illinois AFL-CIO members possess the required skills to construct, operate, interconnect, and maintain clean energy installations and are well trained as qualified installers in the solar, wind, and clean energy industries with the required skill, training, knowledge and experience that can only be obtained through a certified Illinois AFL-CIO affiliated apprenticeship training program approved by the United States Department of Labor. The construction, maintenance, and repair of such facilities should be compensated under existing classifications contained in the Illinois Prevailing Rate Act; and

WHEREAS, the labor movement must be at the center of shaping climate and clean energy policies to ensure there will be a just transition for workers displaced from fossil fuel industries and for those underrepresented communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution and to ensure the newly created clean energy jobs pay comparable pay and benefits to former fossil fuel positions; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois AFL-CIO seeks to ensure the right to organize and preserve collective bargaining rights and labor protections for those employed in clean energy jobs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO supports legislation to create the construction and siting of integrated, environmentally sound, and broad based commercial solar energy developments on a utility scale.; and it be further

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO supports partnership between private industry and state and federal governments for Standards of Apprenticeship Training for the design, installation, interconnection and maintenance of solar generation installations; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO will fight politically and legislatively to secure and maintain employment, pensions, and health care for workers in the clean energy jobs field; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO will also advocate for nuclear energy to be supported and utilized as a carbon free generation source in the State of Illinois' efforts towards achieving a clean energy economy; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO supports legislation for creation of clean energy jobs and the application of current existing classifications under the Illinois Prevailing Rate Act, 820 ILCS 115/1, et seq., for construction, alteration and maintenance of solar, wind and nuclear energy industries; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO further supports legislation that requires the Illinois Prevailing Rates' current classification on clean energy projects for construction that confers renewable energy credits (REC) or other subsidies financed through the State of Illinois, its taxpayers or utility rate payers; and be it finally

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO supports legislation that adds qualified installer requirements and interconnection standards for clean energy and provides procurement credits for contractors that participate in the Illinois Works Program and utilize Project Labor Agreements (PLA).