Thursday, June 18, 2009

House passes 'green jobs' bill

Portland Business Journal



Oregon's House has passed a measure requiring officials to develop training programs that match residents with "green economy" jobs.

House Bill 3300 passed the House by a 42 to 16 vote. It next goes to the Senate.

The measure calls for the Oregon Workforce Investment Board to develop a green jobs work force plan, including strategies that steer low-income Oregonians to high-wage, high-demand environmental-oriented professions. The board must also invest in new training programs that educate workers about green-industry jobs.

"We have done a tremendous job since 2007 in creating the infrastructure and incentives for a new and growing wave of green jobs," said David Edwards, a Hillsboro Democrat and the bill's sponsor, in a statement. "Now this bill instructs those involved in developing workforce training programs to clearly identify these jobs and develop a plan to make sure the training programs are available for workers in this growing industry."