



Minnesota Utility Contractors Association

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February 18, 2025

Hon. Rep. Dave Baker, Chair,
House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee
Author: Rep. Issac Schultz

VIA EMAIL

RE: HF 47 Certification of Underground Telecommunications Installers

Chair Baker, Rep. Schultz, and Committee,

The Minnesota Utility Contractors Association (MUCA) represents over 140 companies across the state that perform utility installation services. Everything from sewer, water, storm water, gas, electric, cable, telecom, and fiber optic installations.

While MUCA supports training efforts for industry, and we support and agree with the revisions noted by striking Subd. 2. (3), (b), and the reduction in hours required from 40 down to 10, we still have strong concerns for provisions contained in the new statute. Many of the training components outlined in the legislation already exist and are currently being satisfied through other industry certification programs.

There are several programs, nationally and locally, that already certify contractors for compliance with utility installation outlined in this legislation (Subd. 3, (1), i., ii., iii., iv., v., vi., etc.). We are not aware of any study, or comprehensive job task analysis performed to identify the specifics that direct or differentiate this training from what already exists.

One example is Operator Qualification (49CFR, Part 192) from the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). This is a national regulation for gas installation and already covers many of the topics this bill seeks to address. MUCA's Pipelayer Certification that is required by MN Department of Labor covers many of the same topics suggested in this bill. And finally, there are also national utility locator certification programs already covering several items mentioned.

We see this effort as duplicative and placing an additional unnecessary burden on the utility construction industry that is already trained to install utilities of all kinds. We believe there is not a need for a separate, additional certification that will increase the project cost for municipalities and increase the burden for Minnesota taxpayers.

MUCA offers our experience and expertise as a resource to answer any questions or discuss any concerns regarding underground utilities and the utility construction industry.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Menning".

Stephanie Menning, CAE, IOM
Executive Director, MUCA

OUR MISSION

To promote the underground utility industry by
providing safety training, continuing education,
scholarships and legislative relations.

OUR VALUES

Honest Communications
Transparent Leadership
Authentic Engagement