

February 9, 2021



Chair Jamie Long

517 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for modification of energy code for new commercial buildings (HF XXXX)

Thank you Chair Long and members of the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee for allowing me time to testify today on behalf of HF xxxx.

My name is Andy Snope, I am the Legislative Director for IBEW Local 292. We represent 5000 electrical workers who work throughout the state of Minnesota.

IBEW Local 292 supports HF XXXX. This legislation provides for an accelerated adoption of the latest recommended standards for a statewide energy code for commercial buildings. Building energy efficiency is what our members and the contractors we work for do. We perform work that helps buildings perform better; Electrification, lighting and load control, building automation, building energy management, process control and HVAC control are all tasks that our members perform, are trained to do and continually receive training to update our skills to meet the latest codes and standards.

In 2019, legislation was introduced to allow cities an option to adopt their own specific energy code for their municipality. While we are supportive of energy codes and the work our members receive from that work, we had some concerns of the adoption of a patchwork of differing energy code requirements from city to city.

In 2019 an informal work group was formed structured through the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce. After 18 months of work with stakeholders, the recommendations presented earlier at this hearing are the result.

This recommendation creates a process in which this remains a statewide adoption as well as preserving established regulatory conformity of an energy code. This creates the statewide uniformity and predictability we support, and it also expedites that adoption process which we also support. This legislation allows for the continued established process of involving industry experts through the rules changing process.

We are looking forward to working with the Departments of Labor, Commerce, the Cities and Municipalities as well as all the other stakeholders to be a part of the process to help implement the needed changes to establish an expedited stepped energy code adoption with statewide uniformity.

Thank you for your time today and I am available for answer any questions.

Andy Snope

Andy Snope
Legislative Director
IBEW Local 292
612-810-2781
asnope@ibew292.org