

February 23, 2023

To: Chair Jamie Becker-Finn and Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law

Committee

Re: HF1337 (Fischer) Digital Fair Repair

We represent the contractors and individuals of the electronic security technology, fire, and life safety systems industry in Minnesota. Our industry is licensed by the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes, section 3268.33). The statute makes it illegal for any contractor or individual to "install, alter, repair, plan or lay out or supervise the installing, altering, repairing planning, or laying out of electrical wiring, apparatus, or equipment for technology circuits or systems." The statute further requires 16 continuing education credits (CEUs) within each 2 years of a license duration. 12 of the 16 CEUs must be on the National Electric Code (NEC), the basis on which all of our industry work is predicated.

To qualify and apply for a license, an individual must have 3,000 hours of on-the-job training and pass the examination administered by the Department of Labor and Industry. Upon passing the exam, an individual is issued a 2-year license (either individual or contractor or both). A contractor is required to post a performance bond to the State and carry all the necessary insurance (general liability, vehicle and worker compensation). As such, those individuals working in the "technology systems industry" are extremely well trained, experienced professionals. They continue their education to assure that they will evolve - as does the technology we work with each day.

HF1337 is in direct conflict with Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.33, by allowing anyone to work in the technology systems industries without the necessary training and testing for proficiency in electronic security, fire, life safety systems, video surveillance, control of access, nurse call, and personal emergency response systems used by our senior citizens.

The above facts lead to the conclusion that HF1337 should be amended to exclude electronic security, fire, access, and life safety systems. As currently written, it already excludes Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Medical Devices.

Sincerely,

David Fisch
License # PL-002260
MNESTA Government Relations Representative