



My name is Andy Snope. I represent the Members of IBEW Local 292, the electrical workers. Our members perform work installing and maintaining Energy systems all over the state of Minnesota. The installation of solar systems, energy storage, energy efficiency and electrical vehicle infrastructure have benefited our members. There is a transition to cleaner energy and IBEW Local 292 members have provided the skilled trained work force to help with that transition to a more energy efficient and cleaner energy production world. When you think about clean energy, think highly skilled, high wage and benefited careers. Constructing Energy Storage Systems will create jobs in the Electrical industry.

Thank you Chair Long, members of the Climate and Energy Committee and Representative Hollins for allowing me to testify today on HF 1651 as amended to help provide incentives for Energy Storage Systems. A sustainable reliable energy storage system is a key component of providing a consistent reliable source of energy when using today's renewable energy technology. Stored energy can be used regardless of if the sun is shining, or the wind is blowing and of course it does not emit a carbon byproduct into the air. The construction of electrical storage systems is electrical work, and our members are trained, experienced and ready to do the work.

Specifically in this amended bill I would like to touch on section 1, which makes modifications to the use of funds from the Renewable Development Account. Over the last several legislative sessions we have seen more requests for construction projects to be funded through the RDA fund. Solar on Schools is a great example, which was passed last year. As with General Fund spending on construction projects we should also expect prevailing wage requirements should be placed on RDA funded construction projects.

We could have a very long discussion about Prevailing Wage; but the short version is that prevailing wage provides that construction workers are paid the area standard wage and benefit package for construction projects. Any contractor that pays less than the area standard, is really taking advantage of workers and not contributing to the overall complementary cycle of the economy. The taxpayers (rate payers) of Minnesota should demand that their dollars are spent wisely and not used to line the pockets of developers and contractors, but to additionally provide for the workers on these projects. Prevailing wage helps to guarantee that we all, especially those from disadvantaged communities, benefit from state provided incentives, grants, and subsidies on renewable energy projects. Prevailing Wage requirements provide yet another tool to prevent wage theft and to further promote quality training and a safe and skilled workforce.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions and am always available at any time for any follow up.