

February 25, 2021



Chair Jamie Long

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

Re: Support for Beneficial Building Electrification (HF 751)

Thank you Chair Long and members of the House Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee for allowing me time to testify today on HF 751.

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

IBEW Local 292 supports HF 751. This legislation promotes the use of electricity in the building sector. As Electrical workers, Electrification is what we do. Simply, this proposal if implemented through a program provided by a Public Utility with approval from the PUC, would provide jobs for electrical workers.

The IBEW provides training to workers for a career in the electrical industry. When one aspect of our industry experiences a slowdown, another part of our industry, in which we are trained, may be on the upswing. Our career training helps to even out those industry declines by providing for diverse skills within the industry.

We never ask for any public funding for training; in fact, another element of our success is that our industry prides it's self on funding our own training programs, at no cost to taxpayer's. We have a highly skilled diverse training program funded by contributions from our members and the contractors we work for.

Our members are trained and ready to meet the challenge of building electrification. With the slow down in investment in private building expansion brought on by the COVID 19 pandemic, this additional work in our industry would be very helpful putting our members back to work. To that end, we are grateful to Rep. Acomb for adding the language through the authors amendment to give further consideration to provide job opportunities to local workers.

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

Andy Snope

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