

International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, AND 49E
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA

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19

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Dear Representative,

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 49 urge you to support HF 3641 chief authored by Rep. Andy Welti. The bill provides for common sense changes to the C-BED statutes that reduce ambiguities in the current C-BED statute.

A key community benefit of C-BED projects is the green energy construction jobs that they create. Currently, the statute includes dollars flowing to "other local entities" as a community benefit. In practice, this has included construction, operations and maintenance services paid to Minnesota businesses. This bill would make clear that using Minnesota contractors and construction workers on a project is a community benefit. We believe that this would encourage the use of Minnesota workers on C-BED projects.

Minnesota's economy would benefit from the attraction of high technology manufacturing located in the state. The addition of value-added payments for goods manufactured in Minnesota as a community benefit may be what is needed to encourage the location of turbine and component manufacturing in Minnesota.

Making these common sense changes to the way we define C-BED would benefit ratepayers through lower C-BED rates and may even improve the climate in Minnesota to attract green technology and energy sector jobs.

The Operating Engineer's sole commitment since 1927 has been to improve the welfare of workers and working families across the upper Midwest. Today, we represent more than 13,000 men and women in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Fraternally,

Glen D. Johnson
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