

Twin Ports
Arrowhead Chapter
National Electrical Contractors Association



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March 22, 2021

The Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Regarding: Work Zone Safety Pilot Program (SF 2200/HF 2295)

Dear Senator/Representative:

Established in 1979, the Twin Ports Arrowhead Chapter of NECA is a member-based association that is the voice of union electrical contractors in the Arrowhead Region of Northern Minnesota. Our members employ hundreds of skilled tradespeople that perform electrical work in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. We are an industry that sets safety of our workers as its number one priority.

We urge your full support of SF 2200/HF 2295 to establish a pilot program to make work zones safer. Work zones in the right-of-way challenge both traffic and workplace safety. Working in the roadway is normally challenging but it has become even more challenging in recent years as the number of vehicles speeding through work zones has increased. The excessive speeds lead to more crashes and more times when a passing vehicle strays into the work zone. Across the country, a work zone crash happens every 5 ½ minutes, with 70 injuries a day and 12 fatalities a week. Imagine working under these conditions.

We believe the process and plan required by SF 2200/HF 2295 will lead to safer working conditions in work zones and improve traffic safety for each of us passing through a work zone.

Thank you for considering this legislation and for working to protect the women and men who work in the roadway.

Sincerely,

David M. Orman
NECA Chapter Executive

Rick Osbakken
NECA Chapter Governor

DMO/dmo