



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 efficiency and electrical vehicle infrastructure have benefited our members. Climate change must be addressed. 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 high wage and benefited careers.

The developers and contractors our members have worked for prioritize highly skilled educated electricians that are able to get the job done on time under budget and without any problems on the install. We began that training in electrification efficiency and energy production from solar many years ago. In fact, we established a workforce trained to install solar systems before the industry and some of our contractors realized that it would become a staple of our industry. As a result, we have seen a success story in that the move to a cleaner power producing environment has led to good local jobs for our members.

In 2012 and 2013 we worked with clean energy stakeholders to advocate for legislation to provide incentives for solar power production. Initiatives such as community solar gardens, the solar rewards program and the Made in Minnesota solar incentive program. As a direct result those programs have resulted in countless hours of work for our members.

As we continue to make a further transition to renewable carbon free power development and electrification, we like to see a high emphasis to help create good high wage high benefited jobs. This can take a small bite out of the economy of good jobs being lost by replacing the jobs in the legacy power generating industry. When you think renewable energy, energy optimization and building efficiency, think of creating great jobs for Minnesotans in the construction industry, but we must also not forget that there is significant job loss in the loss of legacy energy production.

We would ask that you considering requirements of prevailing wage and Apprenticeship training for workers who are building out our renewable carbon free energy power development. Prevailing wage would help to assure that developers and contractors are paying local area labor wage and benefit standards, further assuring that out of state developers/contractors are not undercutting our local Minnesota contractors who are bidding on these projects. Apprenticeship training and job supervision assures the training for a career in the electrical industry, not just a job in racking solar panels.

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 skill within the industry.

We are not asking 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. A highly skilled diverse training program funded by an equal contribution from our members and the contractors we work for. I am a product of that training with 31 years in the industry, only 10 years as legislative advocate. In the fall of 2019, I took a break from legislative/political work and went back into the field to work on a large solar installation in Steward Minnesota. I was very impressed with the skill and efficiency in which my fellow IBEW members constructed this installation. Because of the years of exceptional training I received, I was able to pick it all right back up again.

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