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Mr. Chair and Members of the House Labor and Industry Committee,

My name is Joel Johnson, and I'm here on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers State Council. Like the other Building and Construction Trades, we strongly support HF2755.

We in the Trades rely daily on the work done by the Department, particularly when it comes to enforcing safe worksite standards so our members can show up to work, do their jobs, and return home to friends and family. The Department also oversees the registered apprentice programs across the state to ensure workers on these sites have the proper skills and training to do these jobs safely.

In addition, the Department also plays a critical role in prevailing-wage enforcement compliance. Prevailing wage laws exist in Minnesota to ensure projects funded with public money are built and maintained with the highest quality of labor available and that the people working on these public projects be compensated according to the real value of the services they perform. With an estimated \$7 billion-plus of federal monies coming to the state over the next handful of years, we will be relying on the department to make sure workers are paid properly and fairly.

Thank you and we look forward to continuing to work with Commissioner Bilssenbach and her staff at the Department.