

February 23, 2021



Chair Rob Ecklund

House Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Re: Support for modification of energy code for new commercial buildings (HF 831)

Thank you Chair Ecklund and members of the Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. for allowing me time to testify today on behalf of HF 831.

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

IBEW Local 292 supports HF 831. This legislation provides for an accelerated adoption of the latest recommended standards for a statewide energy code for commercial buildings. Building energy efficiency is what our members and the contractors we work for do. We perform work that helps buildings perform better; electrification, lighting and load control, building automation, building energy management, process control and HVAC controls are all tasks that our members perform. We are trained to do these tasks and we continually receive training to update our skills to meet the latest codes and standards.

In 2019, legislation was introduced to allow cities an option to adopt their own specific energy stretch codes for their municipality. While we are supportive of energy codes and the work our members receive from energy efficiency efforts, we had some concerns of the adoption of a patchwork of differing energy code requirements from city to city.

Also, in 2019, a work group was formed that was structured through the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce. After 18 months of work with stakeholders, recommendations were published and distributed.

This legislation is a result of these recommendations to create a process in which adoption of energy codes remain a statewide implementation and preserves established regulatory conformity of the energy code. This creates the statewide uniformity and predictability we support, and it also expedites that adoption process which we also support. This legislation allows for the continued established process of involving industry experts through the rules changing process.

We are looking forward to working with the Departments of Labor, Commerce, Cities and Municipalities, and all other stakeholders to be a part of the process helping to implement these needed changes to establish an expedited stepped energy code adoption with statewide uniformity.

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

Andy Snope

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