



TESTIMONY OF IBEW LOCAL 26 ELECTRICAL WORKERS MINORITY CAUCUS

SB259 / HB611, PROCUREMENT - PREVAILING WAGE – APPLICABILITY SUPPORT

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the members of the IBEW Local 26 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, please accept this testimony in strong support of SB259 / HB611, which would significantly help our members by expanding prevailing wages to mechanical systems service contracts.

The mission of the IBEW Local 26 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus is to promote equity, equal opportunity and employment for minorities and underrepresented workers at all levels of the IBEW structure. We do so through the fostering of leadership development and empowerment for minorities and underrepresented workers to become active participants and leaders in the IBEW. Specifically, we provide assistance to and address discrimination complaints of minorities and underrepresented workers in the IBEW, promote, support and assist the organizing of minority and underrepresented workers in the IBEW, encourage minority and underrepresented workers to be greater activists in community and political affairs, and be actively involved in human, civil and women's rights organizations both within and outside of organized labor.

Our members support this legislation because it redresses a grave disparity between workers who perform construction work, and those who perform service work. It is patently unfair to pay the same skilled worker fair, middle-class prevailing wages for construction work, but to pay substandard wages for service work. By expanding prevailing wages to service work, as this legislation does, more of our members are able to compete on a level playing field, and thrive in our careers.

Please support SB259 / HB611.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Thompson, President of the EWMC