

**TESTIMONY OPPOSED TO HB 1372
PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL
BOARD**

Chairman Louser and Members of the Industry Business and Labor Committee:

I'm James Schmidt on behalf of the North Dakota State Electrical Board. We believe this bill is unnecessary, as applied to the Electrical Board, and perhaps harmful to our reciprocity with other states.

We believe our current licensure process imposes the minimum burden necessary to protect ND citizens from both life safety concerns and financial harm. Throughout all of the testimony on this bill and similar bills in the past, there has been no indication any foreign practitioner has had undue difficulty obtaining an electrical license in ND. The board processes over 1,000 applications for licensure each year which are reviewed and responded to on a weekly schedule. The board also schedules two days each month for licensing examinations.

Our state currently is a member of the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) which has 19 member states. To be a member of this group the state must have certain minimum licensing requirements. The purpose of our membership in this group is to allow ND electricians to move between states, and allows an extremely streamlined process for electricians seeking to move or practice here. Someone entitled to reciprocity based on holding a license in a NERA state is routinely approved within five days of receipt of their application.

Some states and jurisdictions do not have licensure or have minimal requirements that make them ineligible for immediate reciprocity. The board also has an expedited path to licensure for these individuals. Individuals with experience in such states and jurisdictions are allowed take a placement exam which puts them on the path to full licensure. Again, we believe our current licensure process imposes the minimum burden necessary to protect ND citizens from both life safety concerns and financial harm.

We therefore urge a do not pass vote on HB 1372, or an amendment to allow the electrical board to remain exempt, as it is currently exempt from other provisions in chapter 43-51.

We thank the Committee for hearing our concerns and I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.