

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION of .01001 Amended SB 2249

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, executive director for the North Dakota State Electrical Board and this board already has in its chapter of the code (NDCC Chap. 43-09) the items addressed in the .01001 amended version of SB 2249 and therefore finds it unnecessary and wants to remain exempt.

Similar bills have been proposed in past sessions and have been defeated when the facts of what individual occupational and licensing boards do become fully known.

Since its inception in 1917, the board has licensed electricians, inspected all electrical installations in the state, conducted and monitored continuing education for licensees, supervised apprentice education, created a process for licensing foreign practitioners and financed its own operations without an appropriation. It has also managed all of the other functions of this bill. We currently have an education advisory committee comprised of professional educators from the electrical trade that monitor the required continuing and apprentice education which we don't understand how the labor commissioner can properly analyze this specialized agency any better than our current processes.

We have heard no complaints about the board's licensure process. The board processes over 1,000 applications for licensure each year which

are reviewed and processed on a weekly schedule or more frequently if requested.

The NDSEB is a specialized board overseeing a technical industry. At its core, the board's concern is safeguarding the residents of ND from electrical hazards and financial harm. It is always on the lookout for more efficient means and methods to streamline its procedures, while also maintaining that core function. We therefore urge a do not pass vote on SB 2249 or exempt/remove North Dakota State Electrical Board from this bill.

We thank the Committee for hearing our concerns.