

January 23, 2021

Chairman Lefor, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

Thank You for having me today and allowing me to speak in favor of House Bill 1473.

My name is Brandon Johnson, and I am a licensed Master Electrician and manager of Triangle Electric, an electrical contracting firm. I am also member of the board of directors for the Dakotas Chapter of National Electrical Contractors Association, NECA.

As a contractor, all our equipment and vehicles in our fleet have our organization name, contact information, and our required electrical contracting License Number. I am not afraid of the public seeing us out there and in fact would prefer the public to see where we are working and what we do. I am very proud of what we do, the service we provide, and of the employees and electricians in our firm. Having signage on our equipment and vehicles allows the general public to identify our company.

The cost impact to the contractor to implement this standard should be very minimal. The first thing we do when we get any piece of equipment is send them over to the shop that does our lettering, and we have them back the next day so there is little to no downtime or lost productivity. Many contractors now have vinyl machines in which they are making stickers for electrical equipment as required by the National Electrical Code, so they may be able to even make their own signage in house.

This amendment will also greatly help the North Dakota State Electrical Board and its inspectors identify who is doing electrical work by seeing vehicles with signage on them, thus allowing them to stop and make sure that the person doing the work has a permit from the State, which is required, and that any work being done is being done by a licensed electrician. We commonly have inspectors see our vehicles and pull into our jobsite and do a periodic inspection on our installation, check our workers licenses, and verify we have pulled a permit with the State.

As a citizen and consumer, I feel this would be very beneficial for consumer protection. When John Q Public is hiring an electrician, this will give piece of mind that who they are hiring is licensed, insured, and bonded and that the license number and company name on the vehicle match the business card which match the invoice they are spending their hard-earned money on for a service being provided. If they would like they can look that license number up on the N.D.S.E.B. website and verify the contractor's license is active.

In closing, I would appreciate you supporting House Bill 1473 for the reasons I have stated. The number one reason for the electrical code is practical safeguarding of persons and property from the hazards arising from the use of electricity. By allowing the public and electrical inspectors to better identify who is doing these installations, will allow them to make sure the code is being followed.

Thank You again to the committee for allowing my time.

