

**TESTIMONY Support HB 1383**

**PRESENTED BY JAMES SCHMIDT**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH DAKOTA STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD**

Chairman : Senator Kannianen and committee members

I am James Schmidt, Executive Director for the North Dakota State Electrical Board providing testimony in support for House Bill 1383 and would like to respectfully suggest an amendment.

Line 15 says the tax credit is only available to apprenticeship programs certified by the United States department of labor, bureau of apprenticeship and training, which is fine. However, the board also approves apprentice electrician educational programs so we would want to offer an amendment to include the board or any state agency that has licensure/registration for apprentices under paragraph 2 (b). This will ensure that no apprentices are accidentally omitted from this proposed tax credit. The board has a process for approving apprenticeship programs/training that the DOL may not know about.

The board recognizes the labor work shortage and wants to ensure all employers who employ apprentices would benefit from this bill.

When our staff visit schools to promote the industry, we will talk about this as an incentive for individuals to consider the electrical trade.

We therefore want to show support for HB 1383 with a possible amendment, and we thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify and would stand for any questions.