

Testimony

On Senate Bill 256

Before the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee

By Dan Flynn representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 44

1-25-05

Mr Chairman, Members of the committee, I am Dan Flynn representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 44. We have a safety concern related to expanded Net Metering. We appreciate that statute allows safety devices to be required at net metered services. Our concern centers around the safety of our line workers. OSHA requires all sources of energy be disconnected with a visual open before working on a line. OSHA does not recognize automatic disconnects installed with the generation as adequate. Lethal mistakes could happen if there are many net metered services, all with the ability to inject electricity in the high voltages lines. It is possible that the more net metered customers there are the greater chance that a crew could overlook one and fail to isolate it from the line they are working on potentially subjecting themselves to lethal voltage. Again our concern is for the safety of the workers, who are out all times of day and night in all conditions to repair lines and restore electrical service,