

Senate State Administration Committee

Senator,

Burl French was appointed to the Montana Electrical Board two years ago and I am opposing his appointment for five reasons.

1. Burl French appeared in front of the electrical board in 1982 for working as an electrician without a license.
2. Burl French again appeared in front of the electrical board in 1992 for working someone as an electrician without a license. He told the board at that time that he honestly didn't know he had to register someone as an apprentice and couldn't work them without a license. How could that possibly be true when he was reprimanded 10 years earlier for the same thing.
3. Burl French has voted to make part of the electrical installation system the work of unlicensed people. This is in direct conflict with the history of the electrical board and jeopardizes the safety of Montana citizens.
4. Burl French was not going to allow any public comment at the January 2005 Administrative Rules Committee. Montana has one of the best public participation laws in the USA and for Burl French to decide single-handedly that there was going to be no public comment at one of his meetings is atrocious. However, after a week of emailing back and forth between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Department of Labor and threats of lawsuits, public comment was ultimately allowed. Burl French should have just allowed public comment in the first place.
5. Burl French runs Northwest Fuel Systems which is a company that works on gas pumps. We believe that because his scope of work is limited to gas pumps and not spread out over the electrical industry that he doesn't have a true grasp of what a licensed electrician on the Montana Electrical Board should be doing.

Thank you

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