

February 15, 2013

Mr. Chairmen, members of the committee, for the record, I am Patrick Engle, E.N.G.L.E.

I represent the Montana Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Council, I am the Training Director and I am here to speak in favor of the apprenticeship and training program, workforce services division, and department of labor and industry.

Our program currently has 80 apprentices employed throughout the state of Montana. These apprentices are employed in a wide range of projects from Residential to Industrial. Our program was established in Montana in 1950 and has taken thousands of apprentices through a five year training program to eventually reach the level of Journeyman Electrician. According to the Montana Department of Labor we have a retention rate of over 90% who stay actively employed in the State of Montana. Many of our graduates eventually achieve the status of Master Electrician and become qualified Electrical Contractors who then employ apprentices and journeyman of their own.

Our program is privately, jointly funded by program service fees contributed approximately 100 contractors who belong to the National Electrical Contractors Association and are in collective bargaining agreements with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. We average about \$500,000 annually in revenue and use the money for Apprentice training as well as our instructor training which is held in conjunction with the National Joint Apprenticeship and training committee, and held at the University of Michigan annually.

The apprenticeship and training program, workforce services division and department of labor and industry has been very helpful to me in navigating through and complying with all of the rules and regulations spelled out in the National Labor Standards as well as the EEOC (Equal Opportunity Employment) requirements. The registration agency has been very helpful to me and my staff in providing apprenticeship training opportunities in the State of Montana. The agency also provides technical assistance and has researched both state and federal law to help

keep our program in compliance. They also attend our local JATC meetings on request and attend our program graduation ceremony every year.

In conclusion, we have a very good working relationship with the State Apprenticeship training Program. It is not an adversarial relationship but rather a working presence that works diligently to help in our success in providing apprenticeship training.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.