

International of Electrical



Brotherhood Workers

LOCAL UNION 304

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I would like to first thank the chairman and the members of the committee for allowing us to express our opposition to **House Bill 2023**. Democracy is a wonderful thing and an open dialogue of ideas is one of our organization's highest priorities.

First I would like to help you understand who the roughly 2200 men and women of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 304 are. We are a statewide union consisting of workers from utility companies, rural electric cooperatives, municipalities, overhead line constructors and the electronic manufacturing industry. We pride ourselves on running a democratic union. We hold nearly 30 well attended meetings a month throughout every part of the state. We are membership run with a bottom up approach. We hold election for officers every three years and rarely find them uncontested.

As a **right to work state** our members, both public and private employers, are aware of the fact that their membership in our organization is not compulsory, it is a choice. Contributions to our International's Committee on Political Education are also voluntary. By existing federal and state law we can not intimidate nor coerce individuals to participate in either the Union or the International's COPE fund. If we do our members are entitled to full recourse.

House Bill 2023 appears to fix a problem that doesn't exist. There is no deception in how we use member's dues or political contributions. Our treasurer's report and our political activity are reported at all of our meetings. Though it can be cause for lively discussion every action is transparent and made by our democratically elected executive board.

We pride ourselves on being leaders in our industries, helping to shape it's direction. We see our relationship with our employers as partnerships and with that in mind strive to create an affordable product in a safe and consumer friendly environment.

We think any hinderance to participation in our union, and all it entails gravely encroaches our member's constitutional right to freely associate. That is why we stand opposed to **House Bill 2023** and any similarly worded legislation before this body.

If I can be of further service to the committee or any of its members please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my opposition and for your service to our state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Lira".

Paul E. Lira
Business Manager and Financial Secretary
IBEW LU 304