

To: Ohio House of Representatives – Commerce and Labor Committee  
From: Ed Moore  
Date: 3/1/2022  
  
Re: Opposition to HB 181

Chairman Dick Stein, Vice-Chair Mark Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan:

My name is Ed Moore, International Representative for District 4 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Our organization represents over 20,000 union electrical tradespeople and apprentices across Ohio.

The IBEW opposes HB 181.

Our electrical tradespeople and signatory contractors invest approximately \$10 million per year in joint-labor-management apprenticeship training and safety programs in 19 trade schools across Ohio. These are 3- to 5-year programs in which apprentices work 40 hours per week and attend evening classes at our advanced training centers. We train the largest percentage of women, people of color, and veterans enrolled in electrical apprenticeships in Ohio.

Our experienced instructors educate apprentices in specialized techniques required to build and maintain our state's power grid and public utilities, energy generation facilities, high-tech manufacturing facilities, and high-risk industrial facilities, including refineries and nuclear power plants. This work has the potential to cause significant impacts on the health and safety of every person in a facility and the general public. All of our apprentices earn OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 certifications.

The primary licensing authority in the construction arena in Ohio is the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board ("OCILB"). It is comprised of industry professionals as well as union and nonunion representatives. They are experts in this arena, and have done an outstanding job over the past several decades with regard to licensing skilled crafts in the electrical trades industry. These are highly specialized areas, with electricians and technicians that do very dangerous work.

Any bill, including HB 181, that reduces the authority of Ohio's licensing agencies for these areas of work increases the likelihood of sub-par work being conducted. As a result, the overall safety and well-being of workers and others could be compromised. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and thank you for your consideration of our position.

Ed Moore  
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