

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

LOCAL NO. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, 49E, 49L  
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA

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February 27, 2023

Chair Klein and members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49 (IUOE Local 49) represents more than 12,000 Operating Engineers and their families in Minnesota. Our members include heavy equipment operators and mechanics who work on both public and private construction sites including roads and bridges, residential and commercial construction, as well as energy projects.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our concerns with SF 1598 the digital fair repair act. We understand the well-intentioned concept of the bill but have concerns with how the legislation could impact construction industry heavy equipment- the equipment our members operate on construction sites every day.

We have spoken to our members, as well as our partner dealers, and we believe the current repair system works well for construction equipment and should not be altered at this time. We would respectfully request construction equipment be exempted from the bill similar to the legislation that passed the State of New York. Auto manufacturers and medical devices are currently exempt in the bill given the uniqueness of their industry. We believe the repair of heavy machinery in the construction industry has its own unique aspects and anything that might jeopardize the safety of an operator is unacceptable.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns with SF 1598.

Sincerely,

John Pollard, Legislative Director International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49