

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

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

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February 13, 2023

Chair Frentz and members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment and Climate 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 communicate our support for SF 747 pertaining to prevailing wage agreements required for projects funded in whole or in part with renewable development account funds.

The use of prevailing wage increases hiring of local contractors by up to 12% which keeps tax dollars, income, and spending in our local economies. It also improves efforts to attract, develop, and retain skilled workers which helps projects be completed on time and on budget.

Research consistently shows that construction prevailing wage laws help workers earn middle class incomes, expand insurance coverage, and increase the share of workers with pension plans. Research also shows prevailing wage laws boost worker productivity, reduce injury rates, and increase enrollment in apprenticeship training programs by 8%.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SF 747.

Sincerely,

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