



3100 Humboldt Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408

March 13, 2023

RE: SF 1787 Letter of Support

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee,

The Electrical Association is an organization of over 260 Electrical Contractors and provides education, workforce strategies and government advocacy for its members, most of whom are small employers throughout the State of Minnesota. Two thirds of my members have less than 7 electricians.

I am writing in support of SF 1787. Many homes built 100 years ago or even 50 years ago never contemplated the number of electronic appliances that families use today. In order to move to clean, green energy load management, load optimization, and use of electric appliances instead of natural gas appliances becomes even more important. The systems in older homes often cannot meet this capacity and upgrades are necessary. These upgrades can be costly and more difficult for families of lesser means to afford. Going without upgrades can even lead to safety issues in some cases.

In the other body, prevailing wage language was attached to this bill. I have concerns regarding the addition of prevailing wage. First, I do not think home owners have the capacity to take on the responsibilities of a contract authority as required in 177.43. Subd. 3. Second, MN DLI does not typically set residential prevailing wage rates and they are not readily available.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Dreier".

Michelle Dreier
Director of Member Engagement & Govt. Affairs
Electrical Association