



3100 Humboldt Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408

March 6, 2023

RE: SF 1693 Letter of Support

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

The Electrical Association is an organization of over 375 electrical contractors and electrical employers and provides education, workforce strategies and government advocacy for its members, most of whom are small employers throughout the State of Minnesota. Seventy-five percent of my members have 2-10 employees.

I am writing in support of SF 1693. Workforce and the shortage of licensed electricians is one of my members' top two pain points. As such we are looking to increase productivity of apprentices to alleviate this shortage. Programs like Youth Build provide valuable skills as part of the education process, that directly translate to more productive apprentices in the field.

The Federal Reserve has said we will lose 40% of our construction workforce to retirement by 2030. Programs such as Youth Build are filling a valuable need by educating the construction workforce of the future.

Thank you for your continued support of Youth Build. With these additional funds, I hope even more apprentices will gain living wage jobs as apprentices and gain licensure within the next five years.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Dreier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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