

IBEW LOCAL 110

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO



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Chairman Senator Matt Klein
2105 Minnesota State Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Klein and Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee Members:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 110 writes to provide our support for the proposed legislation SF4455 (Pappas) to require a license to sell copper wire.

IBEW recognizes the widespread issue of copper wire theft impacting various cities and counties in Minnesota. The high cost of copper has led to an exponential increase in copper wire theft from private property, as well as streetlights, traffic signal lights, electric car charging stations, air conditioners, and other public infrastructure.

IBEW 110 also acknowledges the specific challenges this problem has been posing for the City of Saint Paul. Unfortunately, copper wire theft is not unique to Saint Paul, many Minnesota cities, counties, and utilities report an increase in copper wire theft in public and private infrastructure. We see this theft happening all across Minnesota in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

IBEW 110 supports efforts to curtail the theft of stolen copper wire from public infrastructure and private property. IBEW 110 supports the requirement of a license to sell copper wire in that it will help with mitigation efforts to prevent bad actors from selling stolen copper. This bill is a key step in that direction.

Thank you for consideration in support of this preventative measure for all cities and counties in Minnesota.

We offer our support for Senate File 4455 (Pappas) and its passage before this committee.

Respectfully,

Doug Suchanek
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110

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