



IBEW Minnesota State Council

March 13, 2024

Dear Chair Frentz and members of the Senate Energy, Utilities, Environment & Climate Committee,

The IBEW State Council would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on SF4784, the Minnesota Energy Infrastructure Permitting Act. This is an important bill for IBEW members, who build, install and maintain most of the energy infrastructure in Minnesota. More than anything, our members want to work, and this bill will provide that opportunity for our members.

By streamlining the regulatory process involved in approving and siting large clean energy projects, this legislation will also ensure that more of the energy infrastructure that we use in Minnesota is located within the state. We hear frequently from our contractors that the energy permitting and siting process for large energy projects in Minnesota has become too burdensome and costly. This legislation will address many of those concerns.

We would also like to specifically thank the chair for his amendment to require prevailing wage on all large energy projects in the state. This will provision will allow our contractors to compete for this work on a level playing field and help ensure that this important work will be done safely by well-trained workers.

With the passage last year of the 2040 Clean Energy Standard, our utilities are under the gun to build or acquire more carbon-free energy sources. This bill will allow them to build and locate more of those needed resources in the state, creating more Minnesota jobs for our members. We also hope that this legislation will become the basis for similar reforms in other industries.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joel Johnson
Legislative Director
IBEW State Council