



Re: SF2373a-3, McEwen

April 10, 2025

Chair McEwen and members of the Labor Committee,

On behalf of the homebuilding industry in Minnesota, Housing First Minnesota offers this letter in support of reasonable adjustments to the electrical inspections and plumbing review and inspections included in SF2373a-3, authored by Senator McEwen.

By way of background, Housing First Minnesota is a trade association of nearly one thousand members of the housing industry with the mission of homeownership opportunities for all. Electrical and plumbing inspections are an important piece of the construction process in Minnesota.

Today, we proudly build some of the safest, most durable and most-energy efficient homes in the country. As we've shared with the committee in recent hearings, the housing industry supports proper fees for service. With these fees not being adjusted since 2007, we believe that an adjustment is fair and appropriate.

We urge the committee to approve these necessary and reasonable adjustments in an effort to maintain the highest standards of construction safety and inspection services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Foster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Foster" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Foster,
Vice President, Legislative & Political Affairs
Housing First Minnesota





3100 Humboldt Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55408

February 12, 2025

The Electrical Association is writing to express our collective support for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's proposed fee adjustments for electrical permitting and inspection services.

Rationale for Support

After careful consideration, we believe these fee increases are essential and justified for the following reasons:

1. The current fee structure has remained unchanged since 2007, failing to keep pace with the actual costs of providing critical safety inspection services.
2. The proposed fee adjustments represent a responsible approach to ensuring adequate funding for the electrical inspections unit.
3. The modest increases will directly support the continued high-quality work of electrical inspectors who play a crucial role in public safety.

Proposed Fee Adjustments

We specifically endorse the following proposed changes:

- Support the new \$25 application fee
- Support the \$10 remote virtual inspection fee
- Increasing the minimum inspection fee from \$35 to \$55
- Raising the circuit fee from \$6 to \$12

Closing Statement

We urge the Minnesota Legislature to approve these necessary and reasonable fee increases to maintain the highest standards of electrical safety and inspection services.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Lewis
Lewis Electrical Contracting and Consulting Services Inc.
Chair of the Electrical Association Board
Electrical Association

Empowering Contractors



March 12, 2025

Chair McEwen,

On behalf of the Minnesota International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) State Council representing over 15,000 union members in the electrical industry and the Minnesota Contractors of the National Electrical Contractors Association representing over 120 electrical contractors, we are submitting this joint letter in support of the electrical inspection fee increases proposed by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Since the Construction Code and Licensing Division (CCLD) operates on a fee for service basis, fees charged for these services must align with the department's costs. With these fees not being adjusted in nearly 20 years the electrical inspections unit is operating at a deficit. A growing number of construction projects, inflationary and other cost increases are contributing to this deficit.

If this deficit is not addressed, it will decrease the quality of service the department is able to provide primarily leading to increased wait times for inspections. This will delay our industry's ability to build on reasonable timelines harming contractors, workers, building owners and consumers alike. Also, it is incredibly important for public safety that the CCLD electrical inspections unit has the capacity to inspect electrical systems to a high standard ensuring correct installation. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Joel Johnson
Legislative Director
IBEW State Council

Ryan SanCartier
Government Affairs Liaison
MN National Electrical Contractors Association

Jan. 29, 2025

Re: Support for the proposed fee adjustments for the Construction Codes and Licensing Division

Dear Labor Committee members,

On behalf of the Board of Electricity, I am writing to express the Minnesota Board of Electricity's strong support for the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's proposal to increase permit, inspection, plan review and certain registration fees within the Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD).

Given that CCLD operates on a fee-for-service basis, it is essential that the fees charged align with the actual costs of the services provided. It is evident that the current fees, last adjusted in 2007, are no longer adequate to cover the increasing costs due to inflation and other economic factors.

The proposed electrical fees adjustments, such as the new \$25 permit application fee, increased minimum inspection fee from \$35 to \$55, circuit fee increase from \$6 to \$12, and the introduction of a new \$10 remote virtual inspection fee, are prudent measures that reflect the current economic landscape and the costs associated with providing these critical services. Additionally, integrating class 4 electrical systems into the Minnesota Electrical Act is a forward-thinking approach to keep up with emerging low-voltage electrical technologies.

Ensuring that these fees are adequately aligned with the program costs will help maintain the high standards and efficiency of the services provided by CCLD. This is crucial for the safety and compliance of construction projects within Minnesota. The board firmly believes that these adjustments will enhance the division's ability to effectively serve the community and uphold the integrity of our state's construction standards.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. The Board of Electricity fully supports the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's efforts to align fees with the true costs of services and ensure the continued excellence of the Construction Codes and Licensing Division.

Sincerely,



Duane Hendricks

Chair, Minnesota Board of Electricity

CC: Senator McEwen: sen.jennifer.mcewen@mnsenate.gov

Senator Dornink: sen.gene.dornink@mnsenate.gov

Representative Baker: rep.dave.baker@house.mn.gov

Representative Pinto: rep.dave.pinto@house.mn.gov



April 10, 2025

Chair McEwen, and Honorable Members of the State Senate Labor Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council to express our strong support for SF2373, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) budget bill currently under consideration. Adequate funding for DLI is crucial for ensuring the efficient operation of inspections, permitting, and plan reviews, which are essential for advancing construction projects across our state.

Timely and thorough inspections, efficient permit pulling processes, and rigorous plan reviews form the bedrock of a predictable and conducive environment for both workers and businesses in the construction sector. These activities not only uphold safety standards but also facilitate the smooth progression of projects, contributing to economic growth and job creation in Minnesota.

A key part of this bill is ensuring the financial stability of DLI's Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD), which plays a critical role in keeping projects moving safely and efficiently. The reality is that essential units have been operating at a deficit for years. If left unaddressed, this funding shortfall threatens to slow down the services that our industry depends on to maintain momentum on job sites. The proposed fee adjustments are necessary to align these programs with the costs of providing services. Importantly, these fees have remained unchanged since 2007, despite inflation and rising operational costs. Ensuring stable funding for CCLD will allow for timely inspections and reviews, reducing bottlenecks and uncertainty for both workers and contractors, while maintaining high safety and quality standards.

By maintaining stable funding levels for DLI, we can ensure that projects proceed without unnecessary delays, providing certainty to workers, contractors, and developers alike. This predictability fosters investment and innovation within our industry, supporting a robust economic environment that benefits all Minnesotans.

Supporting the DLI budget bill is a prudent investment in Minnesota's future prosperity. By prioritizing full and stable funding for inspections, permitting, and plan reviews, we can ensure that our state remains a desirable place to live, work, and do business. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Dicklich
Executive Director
Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council



March 12, 2025

Chair McEwen,

On behalf of the Minnesota Pipe Trades Association representing over 9,000 union members in the piping industry and the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association representing 130 mechanical contractors, we are submitting this joint letter in support of the plumbing plan review and plumbing inspection fee increases proposed by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

Since the Construction Code and Licensing Division (CCLD) operates on a fee for service basis, fees charged for these services must align with the department's costs. With these fees not being adjusted in nearly 20 years the plumbing plan review and inspection units are operating at a deficit. A growing number of construction projects, inflationary and other cost increases are contributing to this deficit.

If this deficit is not addressed, it will lead to a decrease in the quality of service the department is able to provide primarily leading to increased wait times for inspections and plan reviews. This will delay our industry's ability to build on reasonable timelines, harming contractors, workers, and consumers alike. Also, it is imperative for the health of the public and the protection of the potable water supply that the CCLD plumbing units have the capacity to review and inspect plumbing systems to a high standard ensuring correct installation. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Andrew Campeau

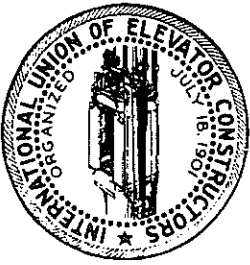
President of the Minnesota

Pipe Trades Association

Ryan SanCartier

Government Affairs Liaison

MN Mechanical Contractors Association



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS

LOCAL UNION NO. 9
433 Little Canada Road E.
Little Canada, MN 55117

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO
Phone: (651) 287-0817
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March 11, 2025

Senator Jennifer A. McEwen
Chair, Labor Committee
Minnesota Senate
3217 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Elevator inspection fee changes included in SF2373

Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Local 9 in support of the Minnesota Department of Labor's (DLI) proposed increase to the annual elevator operating permit and inspection fee included within SF2373.

The IUEC Local 9 is a trade union representing more than 550 members who construct, modernize, repair, and service elevators, escalators, moving walkways, and other conveyances across Minnesota, North Dakota, and Western Wisconsin.

Our members are proud to exceed the state's rigorous training, work experience, and licensing examination requirements to earn their elevator constructor license, and we work every day in our communities to ensure all elevator equipment in Minnesota meets the highest standards of safety and reliability. In support of this mission, DLI's timely inspections of all newly installed and altered elevators, as well as periodic safety inspections of the state's more than 24,000 existing elevators, is critical to keeping the state's elevators safe and dependable.

The current elevator operating permit fee was set in statute in 2007 to fund these safety inspections and the enforcement of the state's elevator code. After nearly 20 years and an ever-growing number of elevators requiring inspection, IUEC Local 9 is supportive of DLI's proposal to increase to the annual elevator operating permit fee from \$100 to \$145 in order to support additional FTE elevator inspectors.

Thank you for supporting our union and our mission to make sure Minnesota's elevators are constructed and maintained to the highest standards.

Ryan Parkos
Business Manager
International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 9



April 10, 2025

Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee:

As Minnesota's labor federation, we represent over 1,000 local unions with over 300,000 members working in the public sector, private sector, and building trades across the state. We are writing to share our support for funding provisions to combat worker misclassification fraud that were not included in the DE amendment that we hope can be incorporated in the future.

As you know, when employers misclassify workers they deny those workers all of the rights and benefits associated with employment. This causes significant harm to workers and law-abiding employers, reduces tax revenue, and strains social safety net programs.

We are grateful for this committee's support for legislation enacted in 2024 that strengthened and streamlined enforcement of misclassification laws, and created the Intergovernmental Misclassification Enforcement Partnership to coordinate enforcement among agencies.

To carry out the duties in the updated statute, the Governor's budget for DLI includes 2.5 FTEs. These resources are needed to conduct outreach, handle an uptick in misclassification complaints, and conduct complex investigations. The cost of these positions is projected to be offset by additional penalty revenue of \$90,000 per year.

We also support funding for an annual report on misclassification that would estimate the prevalence of misclassification by industry and the cost to workers, law-abiding employers, and taxpayers. This will help inform enforcement efforts and provide important metrics to policymakers.

We appreciate the work of this committee and are committed to working to find ways to fund the important work of combating misclassification fraud.

Best regards,

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director





MINNESOTA NURSES ASSOCIATION

345 Randolph Ave. Ste.200, St. Paul, MN 55102
651.414.2800 | mnnurses@mnnurses.org

April 10, 2025

Senate Labor Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading advocate for bedside nurses in Minnesota, representing roughly 80 percent of the state's active hospital nursing workforce. We are dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of nurses and healthcare workers through collective action, ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and strong labor protections that benefit both our members and the patients they serve.

On behalf of my members, I am writing to express our **strong support** for SF2373, the Senate Labor Committee budget bill, and specifically the new provisions in Article 3 – Break Laws. We urge you to support legislation that guarantees nurses and healthcare workers the most basic of rights: legally protected 15-minute rest breaks and 30-minute meal breaks, with state agency enforcement and real penalties for employers who fail to comply.

Nurses and all healthcare workers care for you, your friends, family and community, often under intense pressure, with too few resources, and not enough time. It is not uncommon for a healthcare worker to experience dehydration, cognitive impairment, kidney problems, urinary tract infections and more from the lack of breaks. Right now, caregivers across Minnesota are working 8, 10, 12-hour shifts without stopping to eat, drink, sit down, or use the restroom. We are expected to care for others while ignoring our own needs. That is unsustainable, unsafe, and unacceptable.

Nurses and healthcare workers have tried to address this at the bargaining table and have been rebuffed. When they try to file complaints with state agencies, the broad definitions and lack of enforcement in statute allows employers to keep pushing them to the brink. Could you work for 12 straight hours without a sip of water?

When nurses and healthcare workers aren't allowed to take a break, patients suffer. Mistakes happen. Judgment slips. Burnout grows. The health of the caregiver directly impacts the care we give. We cannot continue pouring from an empty cup.

This legislation gives nurses the legal protection we need to pause, refuel, and return to our patients with the energy, clarity, and compassion they deserve, and it sends a powerful message: **Minnesota values the people who do this essential work.**

We are not machines. We are human beings. And it's time the law recognized that.

Please support this critical legislation—for all healthcare workers, for patients, and for the future of safe, sustainable care in Minnesota. Please support SF2373.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Rubesch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Rubesch, RN
President, Minnesota Nurses Association