



# LOCAL UNION No. 77

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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September 16, 2021

Washington State Building Codes Council

**RE: COMMERCIAL ENERGY CODE PROPOSALS 103, 136, 179**

by email to: [sbcc@des.wa.gov](mailto:sbcc@des.wa.gov), [stoyan.bumbalov@des.wa.gov](mailto:stoyan.bumbalov@des.wa.gov)

Washington State Building Codes Council (SBCC) Members,

I am communicating on behalf of the over 8,300 Members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 77 (IBEW Local 77). Our Members include journeyman-level highly-skilled workers in thousands of classifications including; Building Electrician, Crew Dispatcher, Gas Crewman, Gas Serviceman, Electrician (Utility), Lineman, Substation Operator, and Tree Trimmers. We work in every corner of Washington State. **We are the People who bring the Power to the People.**

Our workers and apprentices put their lives on the line every day. To reach journey-level status, workers receive intensive on-the-job training (from 8,000 to 10,000 hours and as many as five years) and experience responsible Journeyman-to-Apprentice ratios to ensure safety and the highest levels of instruction. **Our Members work on some of the most dangerous jobs in the world.**

Proposals 103 and 136, brought before you are not consistent with any viable or responsible approach to reducing our state's contribution to addressing climate change. **The electrical grid is already stressed.** The arbitrary policy proposals brought forth by 103 and 136, stand to further compromise our electrical grid and thereby our workers.

We all agree that climate change is real and among the most pressing challenges of our time. One critical concern is that a rush to aggressive increased electrification will revitalize unscrupulous and opportunistic policies that **quickly conjures an electrical grid workforce that is detrimental to customers and deadly to workers.**

No doubt, you have received numerous input on the systemic, procedural, and technical problems with proposed items 103 and 136. We agree with all of these and are counting on you to place heightened importance on the negative consequences to electrical workers and our families if you choose to over stress our electrical grid as items 103 and 136 will surely do.

We are there for you in the middle of the night, on holidays, when our children are having birthday's and are also at home in the dark. We ask you to be there for us now. Let's continue to work on a responsible, multi-faceted, science-driven and dynamic approach to climate change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rex Habner  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

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