

Dakota Soda

From: Melissa Fish <mfish@southwestmichiganfirst.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Dakota Soda
Subject: Opposition to SB 895

Good Morning,

On behalf of the over 500 members of Southwest Michigan First, I'm writing to express our opposition to SB 895. According to Pure Michigan Talent Connect, Michigan has a "sizable skilled trades shortage" that is expected to continue through 2030.

As a regional community and economic development organization, we are dedicated to increasing prosperity for all in our region. We believe the presence of a skilled workforce is the single most important factor in determining the location of high-value companies. We support increasing the availability and diversity of workers across all the skilled trades. We oppose SB 895 for the following reasons:

1. **Reduced Training Capacity:** Limiting the number of apprentices allowed on job sites could decrease the overall capacity of training new electricians. With fewer apprentices gaining practical experience under the supervision of Master Electricians and Journeymen, there will be a slower influx of qualified professionals entering the workforce.
2. **Delayed Skill Development:** Apprenticeships are crucial for developing the skills and knowledge needed to become proficient electricians. By restricting apprentices' exposure to real-world scenarios, their learning and skill development process may be delayed. This could prolong the time it takes for them to become fully qualified electricians, further exacerbating the workforce shortage.
3. **Decreased Attraction of New Talent:** Potential candidates may be discouraged from pursuing careers in electrical if they perceive limited opportunities for hands-on training and mentorship. This could result in fewer individuals entering apprenticeship programs, exacerbating the shortage of skilled workers in the long term.
4. **Impact on Business Growth:** For electrical businesses, having access to a skilled workforce is essential for meeting the demands of clients and growing their operations. Restrictions on the number of apprentices could hinder their ability to take on new projects or expand their services, limiting their potential for growth and contributing to a stagnant industry.
5. **Increased Workload for Existing Electricians:** With fewer apprentices available to assist them, Master Electricians and Journeymen may find themselves shouldering a heavier workload. This could lead to burnout and decreased job satisfaction among experienced professionals, further compounding the workforce shortage as they may consider leaving the industry prematurely.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose this legislation and pursue alternative measures that support the growth and prosperity of the skilled trades throughout Michigan.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Melissa Fish Director | Public Policy and Strategic Initiatives

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