

**GRAND
RAPIDS
CHAMBER**

September 24, 2024

Honorable Jim Haadsma
Representative, Michigan House of Representatives
P.O Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Letter of Opposition – Senate Bills 740 & 895

Chair Haadsma and Labor Committee members,

On behalf of the Grand Rapids business community, and the more than 2,900 members of the Grand Rapids Chamber, we write in **opposition of Senate Bills 740 & 895**.

As you are aware, the success of our state relies on the ability to grow as a community through construction and redevelopment. To accomplish this, we must promote the building trades. Putting in place significant restrictions on these trade businesses will impede growth and deter new businesses from locating and growing in Michigan. It will also negatively impact our mission to address the housing shortage.

Senate Bill 740 will create a ratio of 2:1 for apprenticeship to journeyman/master plumbers. In an industry that currently does not have a specific ratio, this will cap how many individuals can enter the workforce at a time where trades are trying to keep up with demand.

Senate Bill 895 will significantly increase the ratio of apprentices to journeyman/master electricians to 1:1. As obtaining the next level of certification is constrained to the timeline provided by the State, this legislation will prevent projects from progressing in a timely manner.

Both bills do not account for the significant discrepancies in the level of education for those at an apprentice level. Third year apprentices in either profession are at a significantly different place in their career and education compared to an apprentice just starting out. Through hours of schooling and training on the most up-to-date methods of performing the profession, it is important that these discrepancies are brought into consideration.

Finally, the limitations put on both the electrical and plumbing trades do not have a mutually exclusive impact on those specific industries. In the construction process, many other tradespeople are at the mercy of each other in completing their responsibilities before another trade can begin their work. These delays can compound the length of delay for a project and can cost the funder of the projects significantly, both in time and money.

For this reason, **we ask for your opposition to both SB 740 & SB 895.**

Sincerely,

Carrie Wilson
CEO
Freedom Construction

Jordan Verhulst
Managing Partner
Frontier Electrical

Eric Melpolder
Managing Partner
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Director of Government Affairs
Grand Rapids Chamber