

# Electrical Board Meeting

Recording Name:

01 Meridian Electrical 8\_12\_2021

Transcript Prepared By:



**T R A N S C R I P T I O N**  
O U T S O U R C I N G , L L C

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1 Wing: Okay, folks. It's 9:00 and we'll go ahead and get  
2 started here. My name is Warren Wing. I'm the  
3 Electrical Program Manager for the Division of  
4 Occupational and Professional Licenses, formerly known  
5 as DBS. Um, we're going to do a couple of intro- --  
6 introductions while we're here. Like I said, I'm  
7 Warren Wing. This is Michael Hyde. He's our HVAC  
8 Program Manager. And this is Tim Frost, and he's our  
9 Administration and Regulatory Affairs. He's got a  
10 bigger title than I do, so.

11

12 So we're going to start out with just a few  
13 housekeeping items. Okay. If you need to -- if you  
14 need to smoke, you, you got to go outside. All right.  
15 That's just, that's just the way it is. Head outside.  
16 You don't go around your vehicle, back out away from  
17 the vehicle, out away from the doors. If you need to  
18 use the restrooms, if you go through this door and  
19 just around the corner the restrooms are right over  
20 there. You can also go out this door. If you take a  
21 left, there's a restroom right -- there's a restroom  
22 right there also.

23

24 As we, uh, as we go through this today we'll -- Tim,  
25 Tim Frost will start, and he's going to kind of give a



1 little history and a background of what ZBR's, Zero  
2 Based, um, Regulations, is and how it came about. As  
3 we go through this, we got to have you come up to the  
4 podium. We're recording. We're going to have this  
5 transcribed so we could see exactly what everybody  
6 said, and it's, it's going to be on the record.

7  
8 Um, as you come up, if you could state your name, if  
9 you're -- if you hold a license, not hold a license,  
10 and if you represent -- if you're here representing  
11 somebody, let us know that too so we can, you know, so  
12 we can have that in the record and know who, know who  
13 you are and where you're from. And, uh, there -- we,  
14 we need to really keep the talking down to a minimum,  
15 right. We can't have people talking across each other  
16 and yelling across the room. It really -- it makes  
17 the recordings bad to be honest with you. I, I  
18 listened to a few of them and just it's just not a  
19 good thing.

20  
21 First, I want to start off and just say we're, we're,  
22 we're glad you're here. Okay. As we go through this,  
23 like I said, Tim will explain a little more about what  
24 ZBR is and, uh, we really need to hear your feedback.  
25 We need to hear, hear your concerns and, um, your



1 thoughts on, on what's happening and we need to -- we  
2 need to hear from you in order to make the decisions  
3 that we're being asked to make, make here in the next,  
4 uh, in the next year or two.

5  
6 Um, don't, don't be scared to come up here. It could  
7 be a little intimidating. I'm not going to lie. Uh,  
8 but come up here. You know, when you come up here,  
9 like I said, uh, state your name, who you, who you  
10 are, where you're from, if you're licensed or not  
11 licensed, and just let us, let us know what your  
12 concerns are.

13  
14 And with that we'll turn it over to Tim and he'll kind  
15 of go over -- phone line. Yes. For those of you on  
16 the phone, we are not going to open it for co- -- for  
17 comments on the phone. They're just -- it's, it's --  
18 we have no way to get a good recording with that. And  
19 when we do open it up on the phone every single time  
20 without fail people don't mute their phone and it just  
21 ends up getting a lot of chatter, a lot of, a lot of  
22 feedback. If you do have comments and you have, you  
23 have concerns or anything, you can send that to us.  
24 You can, you can call me on the phone. You can send  
25 it through an email. There is, there's an online --



1           there's going to be -- after this meeting we're going  
2           to be putting out, uh, an announcement about surveys  
3           where we're going to -- we're going to ask for your  
4           feedback again through, through emails.

5  
6           So just, just want to let you guys know online this is  
7           a listening session. Now for, for those of you and --  
8           that work for DBS inspectors, um, I don't -- I didn't  
9           see any board members here, this is a time for us to  
10          listen to the industry and hear what the industry has  
11          to say. Okay. So if you're any of our inspectors or  
12          any of our DBS staff or if, you know, if, if you're --  
13          I don't see anyone from the board here, but if you are  
14          here from the board, this is our time to hear from the  
15          industry. Um, if you have concerns, if you have  
16          questions or anything like that, you can get with me  
17          on that later outside of this forum. Okay. So is  
18          everyone kind of understand on -- clear on the  
19          expectations and kind of what we're doing with that  
20          part? Okay. If not, Tim.

21 Frost:   Tim Frost in Operations and Regulatory Chief for the  
22           Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses.  
23           Um, number one, I would just say thank you all for  
24           coming here. We really appreciate it. It, uh, it  
25           shows that you all are engaged in your industry, and



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you're looking to give feedback to our board and to the legislature as we navigate, uh, any potential ideas or changes in the future. So thank you for coming. Thank you for taking your time out of your workday and, and having the willingness to engage.

Um, to give some context, it's important to give kind of the why of where we've been in Idaho and, you know, a lot of this has, has -- you know, year-over-year historical we could go back to the fifties when the Electrical Board started, but more recently in 2017 former at the time I guess Lieutenant Governor Brad Little issued an Executive Order on the Licensing Freedom Act, and what it did is it took a review of all occupational licensure professionals, trades to see kind of a pulse of where we're at in the State of Idaho and what we realized is we had hundreds of different licenses, hundreds of permits, registrations.

Um, we had, um, you know, 50 or more boards administering those licenses, 11 different licensing systems. And from 2017 'til now it's been how do we kind of simplify that process for the consumer end. Um, that was part of the creation of our division of



1 taking 11 agencies and board -- taking 11 agencies  
2 that composed of 48 boards and commissions, pulling  
3 them into one agency, looking for opportunities of  
4 efficiency, reducing unnecessary cost, you know, in  
5 the future moving towards one licensing system, uh,  
6 moving our people to one location to have a one-stop  
7 shop, um, overall for, for any licensee and a consumer  
8 that wants to engage with us. So there's a lot of  
9 incredible opportunities from that perspective that  
10 our division is looking forward to implementing in the  
11 next few years.

12  
13 Um, you know, in 2019 each of our boards went through,  
14 uh, Executive Order 2019-02, the Red Tape Reduction  
15 Act where, um, uh, our, our boards held 150 or so  
16 different meetings. Um, they simplified all of our  
17 administrative rules across, um, every administrative  
18 chapter by 75 percent. Uh, and some of those were  
19 cut, some of those were simplifications, some of those  
20 were to clarify for licensees and consumers what those  
21 expectations are. But it, it really started that  
22 process of implementation of licensing freedom of how  
23 do we make it more simple for people to enter the  
24 trades, for them to understand what our requirements  
25 are while continuing the mission of the boards of



1 protection public safety and, and find- -- finding  
2 that balance between the right touch of revo- --  
3 regulation and protecting the public but also not, uh,  
4 creating bureaucratic inertia and stifling innovation  
5 and allowing you as the business to, uh, go forth and  
6 provide a good product to the consumer.

7  
8 Um, as, as a result of the success of red tape  
9 reduction in 2019, um, in 2020 Governor Little issued  
10 Executive Order 2020-01. Uh, that's called a Zero  
11 Based Regulation. And the premise of what it does is  
12 in 2019 we had a complete quick review of everything  
13 where we simplified our rules by 75 percent, but how  
14 do we build a cadence in which it's not just every  
15 year, uh, everything is on the table for a bureau  
16 place and what Zero Base Regulation does is it puts  
17 every single one of our boards across the state under  
18 a five-year review cycle.

19  
20 And so every single board, the Electrical Board, HVAC,  
21 Plumbing, Building Code, all the way to all of our  
22 Healthcare Boards and other Occupations gets slotted  
23 on a five-year schedule at which when that board is  
24 scheduled the board is required to repeal their rule  
25 chapter and replace the entirety of that chapter with



1 a new administrative rule chapter. And in doing so,  
2 um, the governor tasked us to specifically look at,  
3 uh, the cost benefit analysis of each one of those  
4 rules. Um, is it accomplishing the intended goals and  
5 benefits from a safety perspective? Um, are those  
6 benefits from a safety perspective outweighed by the  
7 cost to the consumer? Uh, if, if -- the analysis  
8 requires us to take each of these rules and evaluate,  
9 uh, our surrounding states as well as South Dakota and  
10 Alaska on how do they approach this, and, um, if they  
11 have less regulatory burden around these particular  
12 rules, um, how are we justifying, um, the reasoning  
13 for, for how we go about these rules?

14  
15 And in some instances we have historical reasons for  
16 why, uh, rules exist and that's our justification and  
17 that's part of this conversation of topics that we  
18 discuss here of, um, it, it -- it's super helpful from  
19 you as the industry of letting us know historically  
20 why something was put in place and why it truly is  
21 accomplishing the benefits that it's, it's happening.  
22 But at the same time, um, we're looking for ideas of  
23 where is the profession going to be in the next five  
24 years, 10 years, 20 years, and as we go through ZBR  
25 and this repeal and replace for the Electrical Board,



1 um, what are the areas that we can make amendments?  
2 What are the areas where we can reduce unnecessary red  
3 tape?

4  
5 And maybe, uh, you have ideas in the opposite end of  
6 these are areas of this is going to be problematic in  
7 the future, in the next 10 years for the industry and,  
8 you know, the board needs to look out for this and  
9 needs to, uh, uh, figure out what the, what the  
10 regulatory solution is. And so, uh, this venue in  
11 itself, uh, starts the process of, of engaging you as  
12 the industry to give your, your feedback and your  
13 comments on, uh, some unique topics, um, and at the  
14 same time, uh, we ask you just to be open and honest  
15 with your particular opinion. I think what we've had  
16 so far in our public hearings is, uh, you know, every  
17 comment along the entire continuum and that's  
18 completely welcomed.

19  
20 Um, we, want to make sure we do a proper and thoro- --  
21 thorough evaluation, uh, as our board goes through the  
22 process. Uh, to give you just a little bit more  
23 context, these hearings, um, we're going through these  
24 hearings now, and we're going to be gathering  
25 information, pulling it together the rest of this



1 year. The board won't actually, uh, promulgate and go  
2 through ZBR, the repeal and replace, until 2022. So  
3 next year the Electrical Board will be going through  
4 the process. So this public hearing is in preparation  
5 for the rule making in 2022.

6  
7 And so to the extent that maybe there's a lot of  
8 people here and you don't feel like, you know, you got  
9 to, uh, specify all your comments or, or detail all of  
10 your information, um, there's going to be multiple  
11 more opportunities for you to be heard on these rules.  
12 Um, these rules will go through a negotiated process,  
13 uh, by which there's a public comment process, uh,  
14 there's written comment process, uh, and as Warren  
15 stated for any of you here, any of the members on the  
16 phone, uh, we're happy to take thoughts, feedback, uh,  
17 support, complaints at any time. So, um, with that,  
18 Warren.

19 Wing: All right. So what we're going to do here is there's  
20 a, there's a few topics that have come up in each,  
21 each one of the meetings, and, and they're topics that  
22 I've been, I've been getting asked about for several  
23 years. And I want to kind of throw those out to you  
24 and get your comments on them. We'll do that up 'til  
25 about -- probably up 'til about 15 'til, then at 15

1 'til we'll turn it -- we'll turn to a, uh, a specific  
2 topic that's really got a lot of, um, interest and  
3 kind of leave it op- -- leave it for open forum at  
4 that time also.

5  
6 So the first one that's been coming up quite a bit is  
7 the idea of the master electrician license. Okay.  
8 We've got contractors who are -- we all like to use  
9 the word grandfathered in, right. We got -- and, and  
10 I'm sure there's several of you in this room right now  
11 who are journeymen electrician. We have facility  
12 accounts that can make every type of electrical  
13 installation that an electrical contractor can make,  
14 and they only require journeyman electrician. Okay.  
15 We've got situations where I'm being -- if, if you  
16 look at the actual definition of master electrician,  
17 it says the -- it, it says a person who has the  
18 necessary skills to as design, layout and plan  
19 electrical installations.

20  
21 So I'm getting approached by contractors who have  
22 master electrician's license telling me that I should  
23 require plan reviews for any grandfathered in  
24 contractor or facility account that doesn't have, that  
25 doesn't have a master electrician license because they



1 don't as a journeyman they don't have the def- -- the  
2 def- -- they don't meet the definition of a person  
3 that can design, plan and layout an electrical  
4 installations. Okay. So we've got, we've got two  
5 different things going on here. We've got the idea of  
6 you have to have a master electrician and in the  
7 reality is we've got lots of situations where we don't  
8 have master electricians.

9  
10 So as we go through this ze- -- the Zero Based  
11 Regulations and looking at that, you know, one of the,  
12 uh, questions that we have to answer is, is this  
13 solving a certain problem? You know, and is, is it  
14 safe or unsafe not to have that master electrician?  
15 And we've also got to ask -- we've also -- we got to  
16 ask the question, you know -- we got to -- we have to  
17 look at other states and see how they're doing it, and  
18 if they're less regulatory than we are, we have to  
19 explain why we have to have that when other states  
20 don't have to have that.

21  
22 So what I'd like to hear right now for a few minutes  
23 is, is your, your opinions, your thoughts if you will  
24 on the, the idea of having the master electrician  
25 requirement or not having the master electrician



1 requirement. And with that, I'll leave -- I'll let  
2 you come on up and let's hear from you.

3 Male 1: Hey, Warren. I don't want to come up for anything  
4 but, um, do you have more chairs out there you could  
5 put up for the front so people can sit down?

6 Wing: We've got two more seats up here. That's, that's all  
7 we've got. There's, there's one over here also.

8 Hyde: Kind of bad planning in here.

9 Wing: We're a small room.

10 Hyde: Yeah.

11 Fitzlov: Jeff Fitzlov (ph), electrical contractor, master  
12 electrician, journeyman electrician, certified plan  
13 reviewer, and certified general electrical inspector.  
14 Um, I not only believe that the master's license is  
15 important for the design, you've proven that you have  
16 the ability to design and install, but also I believe  
17 that the electrical inspectors also should have a  
18 master's license and have a third party certification  
19 that's kept up, uh, at all times, so.

20 Wing: Thank you, Jeff. Additional comments?

21 Hyde: People standing in the back, there's an empty chair up  
22 here.

23 Lesk: Uh, Alan Lesk (ph), uh, master electrician, electrical  
24 contractor with Boise Basin Electric. And I believe  
25 that, uh, I also like Jeff that you should require



1 masters electricians 'cause we -- just like the  
2 apprentice and journeyman level, uh, certifications  
3 that it's a, it's a way for, for DBS and, and our, our  
4 customers to know that there's been a various levels  
5 of, uh, qualifications that have been met. And if you  
6 have no first, second, third, fourth, your  
7 apprentices, uh, requirements, journeyman, uh, level  
8 requirements and master level requirements, you don't  
9 know where anybody's at. And so if you eliminate  
10 that, then you're -- you know, you've lost everything.

11  
12 DBS over the years, 'cause I've been an electrician  
13 for 40 plus years, and, uh, has, has done a -- uh,  
14 come a long ways towards, uh, developing, uh, high  
15 levels of safety and inspections in the State of  
16 Idaho, and just like our electrical code changes every  
17 three years to become better, um, I think that if you  
18 do away with masters requirements and journeyman  
19 requirements you'll be going backwards. And we don't  
20 want the code book and the requirements of the  
21 National Electric Code to go backwards. None of us  
22 want that and wouldn't go there. But are we going to  
23 do that in the State of Idaho and, and go backwards  
24 from where we've, we've come to? I think it's wrong  
25 and, uh, definitely not in favor of it. Thank you.



1 Wing: Any additional comments?

2 Brown: Tom Brown, B & B Electric. I'll be the other side of  
3 the master. I sat on the board when we created the  
4 master license. I voted no on it when I sat on the  
5 board. I felt it was just one more step that somebody  
6 would have to take to start a business, and I didn't  
7 see a need for it. The comment was we'd like to have  
8 a master's license and they said what good is it?  
9 They said we don't know. It just shows that a guy's  
10 more experienced.

11

12 So the thought came up let's make a contractor have to  
13 have a master, and I disagreed with that. I said I  
14 don't think you do. You teach a journeyman how to do  
15 all this stuff. They have blueprint reading. They  
16 have calculations. You have tests for journeymen.  
17 Why are we requiring one more test to become a  
18 contractor? We have a contractor's test for  
19 contractors. I don't see if a man wants to start his  
20 shop he should have to become a master. If he passes  
21 the journeyman, he has his time in. Why would he  
22 become a master? Why does he have to become master?  
23 So now he has to hire somebody or take that test. To  
24 me that's a barrier for him to start a business.

25



1 If you have five guys, you have to have a masters. If  
2 you have 10 guys, you have to have a masters. Well  
3 what's this master accomplish? How about the shops  
4 that have 200 and 300 guys? You have one master for  
5 200 or 300 employees? You're going to tell me he's  
6 doing all the designing for 200 and 300 employees. I  
7 don't believe in that.

8

9 Uh, I, I still don't agree with the masters. I'm one  
10 of the few that will speak against it. If I had to  
11 vote again and I sat on a board, I'd vote not to have  
12 it. I think it's a hindrance. I think it holds back  
13 people that want to get into the industry and become  
14 contractors. So that's my thoughts.

15 Wing: All right. Thanks for your comments.

16 Miller: Cobb Miller (ph), Miller Electric. Uh, I'm with him.  
17 I disagree with having a masters in all cases. I work  
18 by myself. I do small remodels, small stuff that our  
19 journeyman license completely covers. If you're going  
20 to get into the big commercial stuff, yes you can need  
21 a masters. But for simple service calls and small  
22 remodels and residential stuff I see no benefit in it.  
23 And I don't have any employees, so to me I'm not  
24 gaining a single thing because I'm not going to get  
25 into the big jobs where you need the masters and that



1 kind of knowledge.

2 Wing: Thanks for your comments.

3 Hooper: Larry Hooper. I've, I've been in this industry for 36  
4 years, been a journeyman for 31, contractor for 29.  
5 I'm with, with them as far as this masters. Until,  
6 until you get the schooling better and open shops, the  
7 schooling sucks. I got three apprentices that are  
8 under me. I work for the City of Napa, and they never  
9 have class. When I went to class I started at BSU. I  
10 did four years. If you miss two nights, you were  
11 done. Now they don't even -- it's all online, and  
12 they don't get that collaboration with other people's  
13 working, uh, and you got one teacher my understanding  
14 at CWI for all four years which is a joke. We had  
15 different teachers for every year, and you know, I  
16 have one apprentice he's just disgusted. He -- you  
17 know, I mean it's just here go read the book and take  
18 the test.

19  
20 And so until you get the schooling taken care of, the  
21 rest of this is just a joke. I mean even for -- I  
22 mean all they're doing is teaching them how to pass  
23 the test. They're really not teaching anything.  
24 They're not -- it's all online. You got to read it  
25 yourself. And I don't know how you guys are, but I'm

1 a hands-on type of person. I ask questions. They can  
2 do that, but when they get the -- you know, they'll  
3 say we get to class and they'll look at stuff and oh  
4 well you guys go home and just do it online. So  
5 that's -- so mine's all been -- all my experience has  
6 been in Idaho. Um, most of it's been commercial and  
7 industrial. But yeah, they're not -- the apprentices  
8 aren't learning anything in these classes, and we're  
9 paying good money for it and not getting anything out  
10 of it. So that's my --

11 Wing: Thanks for your comments.

12 Male 2: Warren, can I ask a quick question? Are we -- is the  
13 topic any that you want to try to get anybody that's  
14 grandfathered in required to get a masters or if I  
15 want to start a business today I'm required to get a  
16 masters? What's, what's the topic here?

17 Wing: Both. Yeah. The topic is both. It's the necessity.  
18 Do we need to require master electrician for someone  
19 to have a contractor's company or can it be done under  
20 a journeyman license.

21 Male 2: Including people who are grandfathered which is two  
22 questions, right?

23 Wing: Well the people who are grandfathered are already  
24 journeyman license -- already have journeyman  
25 licenses.

1 Male 2: But not a masters. Yeah. I'm just trying to clarify  
2 what -- what's the, what's the topic, what's the  
3 question.

4 Wing: Yeah. The topic is, is, is it necessary to require a  
5 master electric to become a contractor or is a  
6 journeyman good enough?

7 Lawrence: So I really appreciate this gentleman's comments. Um,  
8 he made a very good point. He's got apprentices going  
9 through this program that aren't getting educated. So  
10 you're telling me that you guys -- some of these --  
11 the last three that have stood up are totally cool  
12 with having this apprentice that just went through CWI  
13 that doesn't know pretty much anything all the way  
14 through and as soon as he takes his journeyman test,  
15 boom, he's a contractor. That's what you're, you're  
16 telling me. That that's okay?

17  
18 I, I think you guys need to step back. The, the point  
19 of the master's license was you've got four years'  
20 experience after you become a journeyman and then  
21 you're starting a business, not I just got done with  
22 CWI. I had the same instructor for four years. I  
23 didn't get an education. I didn't get proper  
24 training. And now I'm going to go wire a house. And  
25 I brought you guys a little something. This is --



1 this -- I show all my apprentices. And I don't, I  
2 don't know you guys' -- whether you're electricians or  
3 not. But this is a loose connection. So we're  
4 talking about safety. I can't chase around 10, 20  
5 different apprentices on a job if I'm a residential  
6 guy and make sure everything's tight nor can a -- a  
7 single man shop is perfect. He can go around. He  
8 knows everything that he's done. That's great.

9  
10 But if you have an apprentice, you have two  
11 apprentices, three apprentices it's not going to fly.  
12 But this apprentice that just got done that is not  
13 educated, doesn't have any experience, no -- he's been  
14 under a, a contractor that had 20 different, 20  
15 different apprentices. He's not trained properly to  
16 be running as a master electrician or a contractor.

17  
18 I think it's absolutely insane to let somebody go free  
19 that I've had apprentices at the fourth year level  
20 turning out that they have no business doing that.  
21 They don't know how to run a job. They don't know  
22 anything about safety. They don't know -- they don't  
23 know nothing. So let's not set ourselves up for  
24 failure and burn down houses and --

25 Wing: Do you, do you mind if I just give you a follow-up

1 question on that?

2 Lawrence: Yes, sir.

3 Wing: What is your name for the record?

4 Lawrence: My name is Robert Lawrence.

5 Wing: Thank you. And you're an electrician.

6 Lawrence: I am --

7 Wing: And you're --

8 Lawrence: -- in three states, and I'm not a contractor.

9 Wing: You're not a contractor. Okay. Just a quick follow-  
10 up question. So you brought up a good point, right.  
11 So right now in order to become a master you have to  
12 have four years of experience.

13 Lawrence: Yes.

14 Wing: So would it change -- would it change if the  
15 requirement remained the same? In order to become a  
16 contractor you would have to have four years'  
17 experience as a general electrician?

18 Lawrence: I, I think it's a good start, but I, I do believe that  
19 you're setting your inspectors up for failure too when  
20 you're, when you're not requiring these, these people  
21 that are running businesses to have that education.  
22 You need to talk to your inspectors about it because  
23 I've talked to plenty of your state and city  
24 inspectors that are absolutely against that. They,  
25 they -- now and I can't speak for them, but I'm, I'm

1 just going off of what I am told. So hearsay is that  
2 they like the master electricians. They don't want to  
3 follow a guy around and, and hold their hand through  
4 the whole job. And you're -- what you're going to end  
5 up doing is wasting your, your inspector's time, and  
6 you're going to end with a lot more red tags which is  
7 not what anybody wants, right.

8 Wing: Appreciate your comments.

9 Ganushi: My name is Joseph Ganushi (ph). I'm an independent  
10 contractor, and, uh, any state job of any size, any  
11 federal job they're already engineered. Everything is  
12 on the prints, wire size, load calcs, everything is  
13 already done. On a smaller job, uh, you have 8,000  
14 hours of work experience and then two more years in  
15 order to get your, uh, contractor's license. So we're  
16 talking thousands and thousands of hours of experience  
17 already.

18  
19 And I'm not talking residential. That's, you know --  
20 uh, but, uh, when you start having to have small jobs  
21 engineered, you want to put a wall up and you put a  
22 switch in it, hang a light, uh, you know, that's  
23 unnecessary. The architect costs \$2,000 to put a  
24 \$1,000 wall. It just increases, uh, cost. And this  
25 is already done by a electrical engineer which has a



1 liability. Does the master electrician following an  
2 engineer's guidelines, is he going to take  
3 responsibility if something fails? Is it going to  
4 cost him money? That's what all the architect and  
5 engineers are for, you know. Uh, plus work  
6 experience, yeah.

7  
8 Uh, you know, if your guys aren't being trained, I  
9 guess shame on you 'cause that's -- they need to be  
10 trained, you know, and they're trained by their  
11 journeymen and different qualifies of journeymen. So  
12 anyways, uh, I think it's kind of unnecessary. I  
13 guess that's what I'm saying the master electrician to  
14 have a, a -- to be a small independent contractor, you  
15 know. That's, uh, you know, even, uh, the larger ones  
16 aren't necessary because it's already engineered, size  
17 of conduit, where you're landing the breakers, all the  
18 grounding, everything, right. It's -- that's just the  
19 way it is, so that's it.

20 Wing: Thank you for your comments. Appreciate that.

21 Hooper: Larry Hooper. I'd, I'd bring up one more thing as --  
22 um, who determines this master electrician if they  
23 wired houses their whole time, and then they get a  
24 master's electrician so they can do anything? You  
25 got, you got people wiring houses. And also you got

1 people that take tests really well, and you got a guy  
2 that's got common sense, is a really good electrician,  
3 he might not be able to take a test real well. But  
4 you got somebody that can read a book and, you know,  
5 remember all that stuff and you're going to turn him  
6 loose to do anything just 'cause they got a master's  
7 electrician. So you know, that's my comment.

8 Wing: Appreciate that.

9 Sidano: How's it going? My name is Eli Sidano (ph). I'm a  
10 fourth year apprentice. I'll be testing on Monday.  
11 Um, I did most of my schooling with the JTC. Um, and  
12 it's hands down the best the schooling in the nation.  
13 Um, didn't finish my schooling there but that's  
14 another story.

15  
16 Um, I agree with this gentleman here. Uh, the  
17 requirements to have a master electrician is five  
18 years as a journeyman. And right now I work at JTS,  
19 and we do generators. It's the same thing every  
20 single day, and I'm just here to get the rest of my  
21 hours. I'm not going to learn anything new. I could  
22 be there for five more years with my journeyman  
23 license, go take the master electrician.

24  
25 And so I do believe that you, you need to have the



1 necessary, uh, experience and skill to run a job, but  
2 just because you have a master electrician license  
3 doesn't mean you have those skills. So yeah, you need  
4 to somehow get tested so that you can do that and, and  
5 get your own business and, and do all that. But I  
6 feel like these gentlemen said, it's just another hoop  
7 for somebody to go through to get their own business.

8  
9 I, I don't have the capital to start a business, you  
10 know, to be insured. I think I'd get insurance. It's  
11 going to be like 16 -- or \$8,000 a year for em- -- em-  
12 -- employee insurance and there's -- or, uh,  
13 unemployment insurance. There's, um, worker's  
14 compensation. I, I got to hire a master electrician,  
15 and then I got to keep him on the payroll. I got to  
16 keep him busy. I don't have that -- I'm not going to  
17 have that, that type of -- that scope of job when I  
18 first start out.

19  
20 So it -- and then I'm, I'm committed to working for  
21 somebody for five years. I've already been through  
22 five years of schooling. Then I got to be working for  
23 another, another company while they make millions or  
24 whatever for five more years. And like I just said, I  
25 could be building an Amazon generator the same thing



1 every single day for five years. So to me it just --  
2 I, I agree with these guys, and I respect that they  
3 put in the time and the effort and all that stuff to  
4 get where they are. And there's a lot more people  
5 that are smarter and way more qualified than me to do  
6 that big scope of job.

7  
8 But you got homeowners that are doing their own jobs  
9 because they can't afford to pay these guys, and I was  
10 one of those guys. And I'm going back now four years  
11 later redoing my work, and it's a joke. I could burn  
12 down my own house. And those guys, they want it done;  
13 they'll do it. They'll look at you two. They'll get  
14 it done because it's going to save them money, and  
15 that's how they look at it. They're going to get  
16 that. And so if you're talking about safety and  
17 future, they're going to do their outlets and the  
18 outlets are going to look like that burned down.  
19 They're going to do it because they want to save  
20 money.

21  
22 And so if you're able to set it up to where the  
23 journeyman can somehow get that license, maybe even in  
24 a short amount of time. I don't know, but I feel like  
25 in the long run, you know, for, for those little --



1           those smaller scope jobs it would be beneficial. I, I  
2           agree with the bigger scope. You probably have to  
3           have -- 'cause you know you're dealing with a lot more  
4           stuff, right. Um, and like I said, I don't, I don't  
5           really know, but I mean I can -- I could run a small  
6           job. I have as an apprentice, you know. And like  
7           these guys are saying, those master electricians  
8           aren't on every job site doing it. It's the  
9           journeymen the apprentices and sometimes it's the  
10          apprentices with two apprentices and they're running  
11          the job. And I've been there too.

12  
13          Um, I, I -- like I said, I respect all these guys, and  
14          if you're grandfathered in, you're grandfathered in,  
15          you know. Good for you, you know. Who wouldn't take  
16          it? But, um, I, I would like to have my own business  
17          someday, not five years from now, and that's kind of  
18          what it looks like 'cause I'm -- I got to have a  
19          master license, right, to get electrical contractor  
20          license. So, um, that's everything.

21 Wing:     All right. Thank you --

22 Sidano:    Yeah.

23 Wing:     -- sir.

24 Shriner:   My name is Terry Shriner (ph). I've been in the trade  
25           for 55 years, in the electrical trade. I'm a bui- --



1 certified building inspector and a certified  
2 electrical inspector. I worked with the state for 12  
3 years as an inspector, City of Eagle for two, and now  
4 with Caldwell for eight. I was, uh, electrical  
5 contractor for 25 years, very successful. Um, I don't  
6 think there's any use to have a masters. If you have  
7 a masters, fine and well. That's, uh, another feather  
8 in your cap.

9  
10 Uh, I'll give you a small little story, and then I'll  
11 sit down. Uh, we've got a subdivision in, in Caldwell  
12 that is going to have 200 or 300 houses in it.  
13 There's no gas been brought to the subdivision, so  
14 they're all electric homes. They -- 90 percent of  
15 them have RV garages. So they have an electric  
16 fireplace, a total electric house, electric furnace,  
17 15 kw worth of heat electric.

18  
19 And the first house that I went to, um, I just did a  
20 quick calc in my head and said this house isn't going  
21 to calc at a 200 amp service. Every electrician,  
22 every contractor that's come into that subdivision, I  
23 don't care if they're a master -- we didn't have any  
24 masters I'm sure -- uh, every house was put in with a  
25 200. My first thing when I went there for a rough



1 inspection said I want a load calc. I knew damn good  
2 and well they weren't going to pass.

3  
4 Well the first two I got, one was 199 amps, one was  
5 197, but they conveniently left out the RV receptacle  
6 in the RV garage. They left out the central vac, uh,  
7 system which is a three-foot horsepower motor. So  
8 right off the get-go these houses aren't going to pass  
9 with a 200 and not one contractor going into that  
10 subdivision -- so as contractors, they don't even know  
11 what the hell they're doing, and I'm not saying a  
12 master is even going to know what he's doing. I was,  
13 I was -- I've been appalled at everybody that's worked  
14 in that subdivision. And it was an uphill battle to  
15 the -- for these people for making them put 400 amp  
16 service, and the builders were upset. Everybody and  
17 their mother was upset. I am the senior electrical  
18 inspector at Caldwell so people didn't have any place  
19 to go.

20  
21 Matt is one of my students. When I taught for 17  
22 years for Treasure Valley Community College as an  
23 instructor for the apprenticeship program, uh, many of  
24 my students have bec- -- it was a hand-on. It wasn't,  
25 um, online. It didn't have any online course. It was

1 all we showed up at class in Ontario every, every  
2 week. And, uh, like I said, Matt -- Matt's one of  
3 them that passed the test the first time. I had  
4 several, several of my people, but I had my wisdom to  
5 share with them. We had conduit bending classes. We  
6 tried to do everything so they had some industrial,  
7 some commercial and residential.

8  
9 Ninety percent of electricians here in the Treasure  
10 Valley only know residential. And that one gentleman  
11 that came up here -- I don't know which one it was now  
12 but -- oh, I do too. You. They get pigeonholed and  
13 they're doing generators where I had electricians that  
14 came in from, uh, Woodmold, Wood whatever the hell it  
15 was and that's all they knew is motors and motor  
16 control. Good for you, you know, but they couldn't  
17 wire a house. So I as an instructor -- and I, I, I  
18 tried to teach as the best I could so these people  
19 were well-rounded.

20  
21 Um, and the problem now is I don't think you have  
22 qualified, uh, instructors and, and I don't think --  
23 like the state, do you want the inspectors to have a  
24 masters. You guys can't get qualified inspectors out  
25 there as it is without being a master. I'm getting



1 complaints from the state all the time from state  
2 areas from people that come into Caldwell well the  
3 state says do it this way. You know, we follow the  
4 code. I don't care what the hell the state says. So  
5 that's a big issue out there as well.

6 Wing: All right. Thank you --

7 Shriner: Okay?

8 Wing: -- for your comments.

9 Shriner: Thank you.

10 Wing: So we'll take one more on this topic, and then we'll  
11 move to our next topic.

12 Shriner: I'm sorry. I have a no on masters. I'm sorry.  
13 You're right. I just rambled around a little bit.  
14 No.

15 (Crosstalk)

16 Wing: This is the last, this is the last.

17 Elliott: I will say Terry corrected me a few times. Brian  
18 Elliott's my name, master electrician in a few states.  
19 Um, I was one of these guys that was for many years  
20 grandfathered in 'cause I've been doing this a long  
21 time. Uh, for a couple years I went to work for a  
22 company that was the predecessor of JTS, and we  
23 started the generator business basically in this area.  
24 Uh, we had to work out of state, and they wanted a  
25 master electrician signed off on a lot of these things

1 that we were doing. So I went in, got my masters  
2 electrician license. I mean I didn't study, didn't do  
3 anything, went in, got a 90 some odd on the test. So  
4 I, I don't know what the difference is as, as far as  
5 that, but it was required. So I did it. And then we  
6 went to other states, and I went and got master  
7 licensed in those states too. And some of those I did  
8 have to study for because a lot of it had to do with  
9 state regulations, not the code.

10  
11 I got my license in the State of Oregon. At the time  
12 I wanted to become an, an electrician I looked at  
13 Idaho, and it was basically yeah if you say you're an  
14 electrician you are. And it was like what has been  
15 brought up, maybe four years of roping houses and that  
16 was it. I didn't want to be danger to myself or to  
17 the people that I was doing work for. So I went to  
18 Oregon. At the time Oregon required 3,000 hours  
19 electric -- in commercial, 3,000 hours in industrial,  
20 only 1,500 hours in roping houses, and they also  
21 required 500 hours on-the-job training or circuitry,  
22 basically control work. And so when you came out at  
23 least you knew something, you know.

24  
25 The first -- I always felt sorry when I came back to



1 Idaho for a guy that had been roping houses went to  
2 work for a company, and they said here go out to the  
3 mill and work on this control system. It was  
4 dangerous for those guys themselves as well as the  
5 customer.

6  
7 And so I think we need to start -- I've always said  
8 this ever since I, I got my license. Idaho is very  
9 poor on what they're requiring for these, these guys  
10 to go out and be a journeyman. I, I, I think it's a  
11 disservice to them. Um, you know, they can decide  
12 whether they want to go to different companies or  
13 whatever, and that was one of the drawbacks -- I'll  
14 say that -- in Oregon. It was a drawback, but it was  
15 also a personal decision on how these people wanted  
16 to, to, to move along or move up in the industry.

17  
18 You know, you might have somebody that went to work  
19 and that's all they did was roping houses. They would  
20 be a fourth year apprentice 'til they got all the rest  
21 of their hours in those other areas so that when they  
22 went out to work, you know, on their own or for, for  
23 another company they weren't dangerous. I mean it was  
24 a protection for the folks themselves. I mean both  
25 sides.



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And I've always felt that Idaho is very short-sided on, on protecting, you know, a guy like this that, that he's, he's doing generators. Okay. I was, I was the guy that started that process, and yeah, there's some really important things in generators and some things that you'll never do elsewhere, you know. He's going to -- he's going to have some, some education that most of these guys don't have here, but he's also going to be short in other areas.

But anyway, I, I guess that's my spiel is I think that we need to start a little differently on how we look at producing people. I know right now -- and I haven't followed it for a long time, but a few years back Oregon had a license for house ropers and that's all they could do. And if that's what they wanted to do, that's what they did. But it only was 1,500 hours and then you could go, you could go rope a house. You had to have a, a what they called an inside electrician, an actual journeyman with a inside electrician license to do the service, but everything else on the house they could do.

And, and so I don't know if we need to look at



1 something like this, if we're concerned about dollars  
2 and dollars is a big, big push right now with all the  
3 industry that -- and growth that we have here. But,  
4 um, I just think that we need to back up and take a, a  
5 look at how -- I don't care how other states do it. I  
6 don't. I mean, you know, the question was asked. You  
7 know, well if these guys are this and this, do we have  
8 to come down to their level? I -- my question is why?  
9 We're the State of Idaho. They're the State of  
10 Nebraska or Oregon or wherever it is. They can take  
11 care of their own problems. We need to worry about  
12 our guys, our folks that live here being protected  
13 both directions, the journeymen or the apprentices,  
14 whatever you want to call us. But the folks in the  
15 trade as well as the people that we're, we're  
16 supplying service to. That's my spiel.

17 Wing: Appreciate that.

18 Frost: We have time for one more?

19 Wing: We'll have, we'll have some time for open if you want  
20 to come back to it. So the next one we want to move  
21 into we're going to go ahead and move right into the,  
22 uh, the discussion on ratios. Okay. The -- well let  
23 me get this real quick. I just wanted to read it to  
24 you. So currently there's, there's a lot of people  
25 that actually don't know what the ratio is right now



1 as, as we've been learning. So currently right now  
2 the journeyman to apprentice ratio it says, "One  
3 journeyman shall not supervise more than four  
4 apprentices performing electrical work on one or two  
5 family dwelling units. And one journeyman shall not  
6 supervise and train more than two apprentices  
7 performing electrical work on all other types of  
8 electrical installations."  
9

10 Okay. Couple years ago, um, the legislatures, they  
11 removed the requirements for that, and what we had  
12 left was, "It shall be the responsibility of the  
13 employing contractor to ensure that each apprentice,  
14 trainee and provisional journeymen perform electrical  
15 work only under the constant on-the-job supervision  
16 and training of a journeyman installer." Okay. So  
17 what was left is basically saying it's the, it's the  
18 contractor's responsibility to determine that, right.  
19

20 Now the board was asked to put in, to put in a  
21 basically an emergency rule for ratios and what they  
22 came up with was the 4:1 on one to two family  
23 dwellings. Okay. This is still a topic that's,  
24 that's being discussed, whether or not there's --  
25 whether or not it's up to the industry and the

1 contractor and the industry should decide what the  
2 ratio is or if it's something that should be, you  
3 know, actually codified.

4  
5 Okay. As we look at this, the Zero Based Regulations,  
6 you know, eyes there's lots of states out there who  
7 have expanded ratios more than what we have. There's  
8 lots of states that have a lot tighter ratios, and  
9 there's some states that you had to have three  
10 journeymen to one apprentice or three journeymen to  
11 two apprentice or a 1:1 ratio, right? It's, it's all  
12 over the place. Um, right here in Idaho we have I  
13 think nine or 10 specialties, electrical specialties,  
14 one of those specialties is outside wiremen. They can  
15 work on up to a million volts PV where they -- I mean  
16 they commonly do systems that are 2,000 volts, right.  
17 And there's no ratios for any of our, for any of our  
18 specialties.

19  
20 So we've got to weigh that with our Zero Base  
21 Regulations, and that's why we need your input right  
22 now to see, you know, how do we, how do we, how do we  
23 communicate that? How do we communicate that? Where  
24 we are, we are actually -- I mean I can read you the  
25 exact, the exact language right here, if I could find



1           it. You know, how does this proposed rule compare to  
2           other state laws? If the Idaho proposed rule has a  
3           more stringent requirement than the federal government  
4           or the review states, describe the evidence-based  
5           unique circumstances that justifies the enhanced  
6           requirement. So I guess that would be the question  
7           that I would have for you.

8  
9           So we'll open it up for that discussion, and, and we  
10          got about 45 minutes left. And if you have -- you can  
11          address that, and we'll just leave it open. If you  
12          have any other things you want to address during this  
13          period, you got 45 minutes to address those. Thank  
14          you.

15 Lawrence: Rob Lawrence. I'm going to step back to the whole  
16          outlet thing I'm showing you guys. As a journeyman  
17          running a job as a foreman running a job, I cannot  
18          watch over five to 10 to 20 apprentices which what you  
19          guys had last year was pretty much open, right. It  
20          didn't, didn't say anything. As long as there's a  
21          supervisor that's supposedly there, it's okay.

22  
23          Uh, four apprentices on a house I think is absolutely  
24          insane, but if a residential company thinks they can  
25          do that on one house in that one 3,000 to 5,000 square

1 foot area, okay. I can see it. We're talking  
2 residential. There's not -- I'd like to say there's  
3 not as much to -- I'm not trying to insult anybody  
4 that does residential work, but residential house  
5 roping is a, is a ton easier than trying to facilitate  
6 the work happening in an industrial park, right. So  
7 I'd go with that.

8  
9 But if you guys are worried about getting more  
10 apprentices in, if you're worried about, um, masters  
11 licenses and everything else, the last gentleman that  
12 came up -- I apologize, I didn't catch his name -- but  
13 he had some intelligent things to say. If you guys  
14 are looking to do that, go to a two-year journeyman  
15 license for residential work and leave the commercial  
16 and industrial side of it alone. You do not --  
17 there's no way that this gentleman -- no apolo- -- no  
18 disrespect -- but I know where you're working.

19 Sidano: That's, that's just been for the last year.

20 Lawrence: No, I, I, I get that.

21 Sidano: Most of my work's commercial and industrial --

22 Lawrence: But you're, you're -- yeah. You're not going to turn  
23 out well-rounded by --

24 Sidano: I have a lot of experience with --

25 Lawrence: -- right -- going through a residential company.



1           You're not going to know. You're not going to --  
2           you're not going to be working 480 motors. You're not  
3           going to be doing all the stuff that other trades do  
4           or other businesses do. So go to a two-year license.  
5           That will fix part of the problem you guys are looking  
6           to fix, and then leave our ratios alone. There's  
7           absolutely no way I want to be wrangling 30 cats on a  
8           job and that's what it's going to be. And we're going  
9           to have burnt down houses.

10  
11           That outlet that I pulled out and showed you guys,  
12           that came out of a house that a lady and her four kids  
13           were living in, and this is wired up. It was, it was  
14           a loose connection that got hot, burnt up. There was  
15           a foot of black above this lady's outlet and that's  
16           how I showed up. It's -- this is the crap that we  
17           can't have, and if we're not training our apprentices  
18           properly, they're not safe. And I mean your guy's job  
19           as DBS, last word safety. Let's focus on that safety.  
20           Quit trying to spit out journeymen. Let's, let's  
21           build good journeymen. We're not going to do that by  
22           what you guys are trying to do.

23 Wing:       Go ahead, Tim.

24 Frost:      It's just a follow-up question. On that particular  
25           issue on the residential house, did the ratio play a

1 factor in that burn up?

2 Lawrence: I wouldn't know. This was a house that was built.  
3 And it's tamper resistant. That was the original  
4 plug. So those tamper resistant plugs have not been  
5 out that long. So you tell me what apprentice or whom  
6 wired that. I don't know that. I can go back.

7 Male 4: It was (inaudible - 00:48:32).

8 Lawrence: You know, I, I question that. I appreciate what  
9 you're saying. I actually thought about that. It  
10 wasn't owner (inaudible - 00:48:40) my thought. But  
11 if it's acting as a heater, I don't know. I mean  
12 because what does a heater do? The same thing that  
13 does.

14 Male 4: That's a problem-wide (inaudible - 00:48:48) is from a  
15 space heater.

16 Lawrence: Yeah, it was actually. There was a space heater down  
17 --

18 Male 4: Yeah, yeah.

19 Lawrence: -- the line plugged in, so.

20 Male 4: That's the (inaudible - 00:48:53).

21 Wing: All right. We can't -- we need to keep the crosstalk  
22 down.

23 Male 4: Sorry.

24 Wing: Thank you.

25 Vadley: Al Vadley (ph), Vadley Electric. Uh, I was one of the

1 last classes you'll sit through CWI. Jim Wood was my  
2 fourth year teacher. I had a different teacher every  
3 year. Required to go to class. I started off nine  
4 months roping houses, ag for three years, started  
5 going industrial, did industrial for about seven  
6 years, turned out on my own 10 years in. Felt I was  
7 trained proper, still learned, worked under Brian  
8 Elliott. His son Sam Elliott works alongside me.  
9 They both worked at JTS. I've been in your shoe. You  
10 get corn holed. You only know one thing. You got  
11 other training.

12 Wing: Yeah. Most guys don't though. That's --

13 Vadley: No. And that's my thing. I got -- but I ain't going  
14 to go rope a house. I know my scope. I passed my  
15 journeyman's my first time. I passed my masters my  
16 first time. I'm a strong believer in masters, and I  
17 just feel that like Brian said is you need to have the  
18 variance. It sucks jumping ship, going to a new  
19 company. You're small man out. But you got to do it  
20 if you can't get the training where you are. So I  
21 think I agree with saying masters need to be required  
22 for inspectors. I think the inspector-contractor  
23 relationship needs to be worked on a lot. You get a  
24 lot of unfun calls from us. You know, you're, you're,  
25 you're the god babysitter. But some of the inspectors



1 we had lately get along awesome with them. Most of  
2 them are disappearing on us. I don't do, uh, city  
3 work. I only do industrial now. But for a small guy,  
4 four years I've been on my own, you know, and you can  
5 get your own business. You don't have to have all  
6 that stuff after you get your masters. I've got a  
7 buddy that does --

8 Sidano: But I got to wait five years. I got a --

9 Vadley: Yeah, four.

10 Sidano: Four. Okay.

11 Vadley: Yeah.

12 Sidano: If that's all I --

13 Vadley: If you want a job, pop a call. But, uh, like I said,  
14 Brian Elliott's worked alongside me for the last year,  
15 so I'd look up to him, you know. He's been at it for  
16 way longer than I ever was. So I appreciate it.

17 Wing: I appreciate your comments.

18 Steers: Seth Steers (ph), electrical contractor, master  
19 electrician. Um, and I'm -- I'm for a master license.  
20 Um, I think that's a good thing. I -- I'd worry about  
21 my journeymen, um, becoming -- you know, working with  
22 me for four years, and then all of a sudden bam  
23 they're a contractor competing against me.

24

25 But I also want to talk about the ratios. I do a lot



1 of solar work, and I, I compete against the PV  
2 contractor, the specialty contractor quite often.  
3 And, um, I feel like I'm lucky to have the ratio of  
4 1:4 on a single family residential dwelling to be able  
5 to do that solar. And I'm comfortable with that  
6 because I can train them and teach them the  
7 appropriate wiring methods, um, and it gives them a  
8 lot of experience running pipe, uh, pulling wire,  
9 things like that. And I do try to rotate them around  
10 into commercial work.

11  
12 But I, I see my competition, those trainees that have  
13 basically no ratio I don't see them getting the, the  
14 training that they need to even do their work  
15 appropriately. Lots of times it's Free-Air THHNs in  
16 the attic which I don't know who taught them to do  
17 that, but that's definitely not even acceptable in any  
18 thought.

19  
20 Um, so I think the ratio is if we left it to the  
21 contractor I think it would be -- it, it might be a --  
22 it might be a good thing, but I think if we do stick  
23 with the ratio for the journeymen electricians and the  
24 electrical contractor, there needs to be ratios for  
25 the specialties as well because there's things that



1 the specialties are getting away with that, that  
2 regular electrical contractors are not. So that's my  
3 thought. Thank you.

4 Wing: Thank you.

5 Morgan: Clay Morgan, electrical contractor grandfathered. Um,  
6 I think it's probably more important to have an IQ  
7 test than a master's test to get your contractor's  
8 license. So I came up roping houses, did very little  
9 other stuff, started my company, and, uh, you know,  
10 just went into remodel stuff like that, stuff I knew  
11 how to do. And then as I hired people I had guys with  
12 experience doing other things that I would not have  
13 taken on whether -- if I didn't have somebody with  
14 that experience. So there's got to be some kind of  
15 common sense as a contractor to only take on what  
16 you're comfortable taking on.

17  
18 So as far as having a masters, that, that doesn't  
19 really mean anything. Like somebody else said, some  
20 people test well. I know brilliant people who can't  
21 pass it, and they're smarter than I am. Um, I know  
22 idiots who have passed it that have no business  
23 working by themselves.

24  
25 So I think it's, it's not really necessary. I don't



1 think it's going to help because then you're just  
2 going to have contractors having to hire a masters who  
3 might not have even really worked there, just so they  
4 got a license number. I, I think it's pointless. And  
5 it's just going to add cost onto the contractor which  
6 is going to go to the consumer, and it's just going to  
7 raise prices. And I personally think it's pointless.

8 Wing: All right. Thank you for your comments, sir.

9 Swarney: Mark Swarney (ph) with the College of Western Idaho,  
10 and, uh, I'm an administrator, not an electrician.  
11 I'm also originally from Texas, so don't throw things  
12 please. But I got here by the way of Air Force, and  
13 been here in Idaho half my life. And, uh, one, I  
14 appreciate Division of Building Safety putting on  
15 forums like this to hear all the different voices, uh,  
16 'cause I'm a firm believer that we work together to  
17 make sure electricians know what they need to know.  
18 HVAC, uh, technicians, journeymen, plumbers. And I  
19 sleep well in a new house in Middleton because of  
20 that. Uh, so quick, quick war story just about the  
21 importance of the trades and then also how  
22 apprenticeship model works together between  
23 contractors, business owners, journeymen that are on  
24 the job, uh, teaching those apprentices to know what  
25 they need to know to do the job.



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Uh, 27 years in the Air Force and, uh, Air National Guard, um, and retired from that. But I was deployed with the 810s to Turkey to Incirlik, and, uh, low and behold their Air Force decided to try to bomb their president, um, that were taking off from our base that the 810s were at. So the president responded in kind and said, okay, power grid, you lose it.

And so we're on a base, um, that's been around for a long time that U.S. Service Members have been there without electricity. Um, and you've got 810 fighter pilots that are walking through the squadron and living in the squadron like zombies because the houses don't have electricity that powers your HVAC systems, and they were not ready to fight the war. Uh, they were living in the squadron because that's one of the only buildings that had the generator on the base. So, uh, that impresses -- even though I'm not an electrician, that impresses just the importance of what all of you guys and gals do, uh, and I think it's hugely important.

So, uh, more to the task at hand, I understand, you know, Governor Little's approach and Zero Based



1 Regulations, and there's been a push and pull between,  
2 you know, the State Governor's office and the three  
3 boards that I've witnessed, in particular on the  
4 Electrical Board, you know, when President Scott said  
5 I don't recall us asking for Zero Base Regulation. So  
6 I realize this is coming in the next two to three  
7 years and probably what will be in place after we're  
8 all finished with this is it going to be somewhere in  
9 the middle, right, because I wouldn't sleep well in my  
10 house if, you know, there was not a requirement for  
11 apprentices, journeymen's licensings that's required.

12  
13 Uh, so a little bit on the apprenticeship model and  
14 how education and training work hand-in-hand, uh, with  
15 the trades. So 8,000 hours of OJT, right, that you're  
16 required to come and test for your journeyman. 8,000  
17 hours that the apprentice is on the job learning from  
18 their journeymen, learning from the contractors, and  
19 for it to work really well, um, there needs to be  
20 something in place that they're learning what they  
21 need to learn across the disciplines so they can pass  
22 that test. We've got them for 544 hours that's  
23 required, uh, for classroom training, and we also have  
24 lab component of that too as well, hands on. Um, and  
25 was particularly proud of our program during, um,



1           during Covid. You guys and gals weren't allowed the,  
2           uh, convenience of quarantining in your house. There  
3           still needed to be homes to be built. There still  
4           needed to, uh --

5 Wing:       We were essential.

6 Swarney:    Essential workers, right. And but we didn't skip a  
7           beat and still maintained the distance education. Um,  
8           and I think for, you know, the handful of folks that  
9           we hear back from that the training model is not  
10          working for them. Um, we hear other folks that have  
11          been through the program that are probably sitting in  
12          the room, that might have been to BSU (inaudible -  
13          00:58:30), CWI that passed their journeyman's test and  
14          we have about a, you know, 95 percent pass rate on  
15          those journeyman's tests.

16  
17          So on the -- Jim Webb and the four teachers that he  
18          has, um, I feel like do a really good job, um,  
19          teaching what they need to know to be a successful  
20          journeyman. We also need the contractors and  
21          journeymen out there in the field taking that hands-on  
22          time, taking that responsibility and accountability of  
23          being a trainer to those apprentices so they know what  
24          they're doing and we don't get a situation like you  
25          were talking about that a box that's unsafe. Um, so

1 do you have something? Yeah.

2 Frost: We got a (inaudible - 00:59:15).

3 Swarney: Right. So, uh, thanks for, thanks for the time and,  
4 um, um, just -- yeah, thanks for, uh, hearing the  
5 voice of, you know, the training and education piece  
6 of it.

7 Wing: Appreciate it, Mark.

8 Wittington: Hello. My name is Miles Wittington (ph). I  
9 currently hold an Idaho journeyman license for  
10 electrical. I represent the Southwestern Idaho  
11 Electrical JATC. Um, I came up through that  
12 apprenticeship program. I was also an instructor in  
13 that program, and I'm currently the training director  
14 of that program. So I believe in the process when it  
15 comes to education.

16  
17 I'm going to preface this by saying I'm not meaning to  
18 compare what we do to CWI or, you know, BSU campuses,  
19 but we have a five-year program. We have 900 hours of  
20 education in the classroom, and we require 10,000  
21 hours of on-the-job training to turn out as a  
22 journeyman from our program. And a fourth year they  
23 sit their state exam, but that's still not enough for  
24 us. We've determined in our program that all the  
25 state requirements is still not enough to turn out a



1 good journey-level electrical worker. So I'm going to  
2 touch on a couple of things, um, from a training  
3 standpoint. I understand that, um, there have been  
4 other meetings in the state and certain things have  
5 come up, um, so I'm going to touch a little bit on  
6 those.

7  
8 Uh, I'm in firm, uh, support of, you know, the  
9 training. As technology increases, new safety  
10 protocols and tools are developed. Uh, we need to  
11 adapt as a trade to those changes. That can't happen  
12 without education. I'm in firm support of journeymen  
13 continuing education and a limited ratio because a  
14 journeyman, speaking from experience, they're the ones  
15 on the job teaching the apprentices. For people who  
16 complain that they have apprentices that come to them  
17 that don't know anything, teach them. It is your  
18 responsibility as a journeyman to carry on the trade.  
19 It is your responsibility as an educator to carry on  
20 the trade. So what we do is we provide at our  
21 location journeyman-level continuing education classes  
22 so that we can do that.

23  
24 Um, what, what I tell every apprentice that comes  
25 through our program is it's our job at the school to



1 tell you why things are done. It is the job of the  
2 journeyman out in the field to say this is how it's  
3 done, and there is a big proportion of on-the-job  
4 training hours versus classroom education. You have a  
5 lot more on the job than you do in the classroom. We  
6 are there just to make sure that you have a textbook  
7 educational approach to that.

8  
9 Uh, in the same vein, I'm also import -- uh, in  
10 support of apprentice yearly renewal. There's a large  
11 number of apprentices out there that have zero  
12 intention of completing a registered apprenticeship.  
13 They hold an apprentice card. They have no intention  
14 of going to school. So by having that, uh, continuing  
15 education requirement to renew those licenses, yeah,  
16 it's super inconvenient. I can say that coming from  
17 the school standpoint of trying to track the  
18 apprentices, uh, that are trying to get into our  
19 program and, and provide that education to them, but  
20 it's important. Uh, that way they at least have the  
21 minimal requirements to maintain safety.

22  
23 Having regulations, uh, they're inconvenient, uh, to  
24 take the time and the energy to comply with them. To  
25 me it's simple. If it saves lives and it gets



1           everybody home safely to their families at the end of  
2           the day, it's worth it. Uh, when we're assessing the  
3           regulations as a result of a comparison to states that  
4           don't have regulations of their own I think that's a  
5           dangerous path to go down honestly. If we're  
6           comparing ourselves to the lowest common denominator,  
7           our standards will fall. I grew up in Idaho. I've  
8           lived here my entire life, and I've always been proud  
9           of Idaho's ability to stand on its own. We've never  
10          had to compare ourselves to other states when it's  
11          come to different things. Why are we doing it with  
12          the safety of our workers within the state because  
13          some workers in another state do something  
14          differently?

15  
16          Um, just in closing, please don't lower Idaho  
17          standards in training, especially with the licensing  
18          because it's inconvenient and other states have done  
19          the same thing. We can do better. We can be safer.  
20          Thank you.

21 Wing:     All right. Thank you.

22 Frost:    Just a question for everybody as a comment. One of  
23            the things we'd like feedback on, um, we've, we've had  
24            a number of different -- as we've done these public  
25            hearings we've had, you know, questions and comments

1 related on ratio, keeping it the same or, um, our  
2 license requirements are not enough. One of the  
3 things as we go through Zero Base Regulation and we're  
4 doing the review is what are the objective measures  
5 that we're pointing to that would suggest that this  
6 ratio is keeping us safe? What are the objective  
7 measures that we're pointing to to say that, um, our  
8 current requirements to become a journeyman aren't  
9 enough? In other words, when we, we do a review of  
10 another states we have an analysis of states that are  
11 more restrictive, and states that are very similarly  
12 situated, and states that maybe have no ratio at all.  
13 What should we be looking at as a division from an  
14 objective measurement to actually make a comparison?  
15 Is it insurance requirements? Is it fires? Is it,  
16 um, you know, liability? Like what is the provision  
17 there because, um, I think as we -- as we've tried to  
18 unpack this conversation one of the, one of the  
19 requests from both the legislature and the governor's  
20 office has been make sure we're reviewing this off an  
21 evidence-based standpoint. And so what should we be  
22 looking at to point to to guide us to definitively say  
23 this is why we should have that regulation and this is  
24 why it's actually narrowly tailored from a safety  
25 standpoint?

1 Male 5: So this is directed at, uh, residential, um. The  
2 gentleman that's had a two-year license to wire a  
3 house, any competent person that would apply  
4 themselves can learn how to wire a house in six  
5 months. No kidding. It's that easy. In fact,  
6 everybody should probably have to be competent wiring  
7 a house. At least you'll know how to wire a three-way  
8 switch and not be two years into industrial or  
9 commercial and not know how to wire a three-way  
10 switch. But, uh, uh, if you increase -- or sorry, if  
11 you have a two-year journeyman, then you can have two  
12 apprentice and with two-year journeymen and four  
13 apprentice you can knock out a house in three or four  
14 hours, boom, boom, boom, in trims and a combination of  
15 trims five a day. I've been there, done that. It's  
16 been a while. But, uh, anyways, so, uh, that's that  
17 input. Four is too much for one journeyman.

18 Wing: We, we got a line of people wanting to talk, so if  
19 everyone can keep it down to just a couple of minutes,  
20 that'd be great.

21 Fitzlov: Jeff Fitzlov, licensed. I've furnished Renee a copy  
22 of my notes that I've put in here 'cause I've got  
23 several things. We're focusing on licensing. There's  
24 a whole lot more in the rules and statutes, county  
25 option be a big one. Fixing the rules, back during

1 the reorgan- -- or the first, uh, Reduction of Rules  
2 Act everything got put -- the 11 electoral (ph) rules  
3 got put under one rule with different paragraphs. The  
4 fee rules got thrown in there. Fee rules are played  
5 with differently down at the legislature. They can be  
6 modified in committee. It can be hijacked by anybody  
7 down there. So all the effort that's put in here they  
8 could promulgate the rules, everybody -- we got 100  
9 percent consensus here, somebody can stand up in the  
10 House of Business Committee and say I don't like it.  
11 I want to take it out. We got to fix that piece. Get  
12 the fee rules in a separate section. And also  
13 anywhere it mentions the code in here for a date put  
14 most current edition.

15 Wing: Okay. Jeff, do you have -- do you mind if we have a -  
16 -

17 Fitzlov: Yes.

18 Frost: As a --

19 Wing: -- follow-up question?

20 Frost: -- as a follow-up, um, from your perspective, should  
21 the legislature have the authority to, um, speak  
22 beyond what the board says? In other words, are, are  
23 you saying the board should have the only authority to  
24 make these decisions or -- and that a legislature  
25 shouldn't? I'm trying to understand.

1 Fitzlov: No. What I'm saying is is we've spent lots of time on  
2 apprenticeship ratio. I probably sat in four meetings  
3 myself. I've come to Electrical Board meetings, and I  
4 sit on the committees. I sat on the Code of Adoption  
5 Committee. Um, I've been coming and going to these  
6 since 2002. I was bureau chief, inspection supervisor  
7 and on and on. I see how it works. The legislature  
8 absolutely, but when we've got 80 people in a room and  
9 70 of them say let's go forward to two and we got down  
10 to the legislature and then it gets jerked out, no  
11 that part's not right. I don't think the document  
12 there -- I don't think the consensus was there to do  
13 it.

14 Frost: Okay. Thank you for your comments.

15 Lusk: I'm, uh, Aaron Lusk (ph). I'm a journeyman  
16 electrician. I, uh, kind of grew up in this trade. I  
17 actually was an apprentice for almost eight years.  
18 Um, got my journeyman's license in 2018, and I right  
19 now I work on custom residential houses mostly. And  
20 as far as ratios are concerned, I can watch and keep  
21 track of three guys really well. Four guys gets a  
22 little tough. Anything beyond that and mistakes start  
23 happening, and I can't catch everything. And then I  
24 don't catch them for another four months until we go  
25 back to trip. I have to test the entire house and

1 figure out where the problems are and what happens.  
2 So ratios are extremely important. We need those  
3 because mistakes happen when there's too many guys on  
4 a job.

5  
6 As far as the master's program is concerned, being  
7 somebody I have quite a bit of experience. I've  
8 trained under a lot of very intelligent electricians,  
9 one of them master electrician, one of them a  
10 journeyman for a very long time over here. And even  
11 having all of the experience that I have and becoming  
12 a journeyman electrician, I don't enough experience to  
13 be a contractor. Getting rid of the master's program  
14 just allows people who are inexperienced and not ready  
15 after four years of school and 8,000 hours, which  
16 isn't enough to be a contractor, to go out there and  
17 start fires. That's a problem. And there's too much  
18 shitty work that happens around this state that I see  
19 that we see in service work that getting rid of  
20 regulations doesn't fix. It only makes it worse.  
21 Thanks.

22 Wing: All right. Thank you.

23 Peck: My name is Damon Peck (ph), and I'm a master  
24 electrician. I'm usually a better public speaker with  
25 authority in my hand. But, uh, as far as ratios go, I

1           grew up on the 1:2, uh, came up with the same five-  
2           year apprenticeship. Um, you know, I would say we're  
3           talking about apprentices. There's different levels  
4           of apprentices. If you say have a good, we assume,  
5           third year apprentice on the job, maybe you could add  
6           an apprentice here or an apprentice there under one  
7           journeyman. You know, the hierarchy of trained  
8           personnel. Uh, if you're talking about four first  
9           year apprentices that haven't even started school,  
10          yeah, that's an issue. That's a daycare. You don't  
11          want that.

12  
13          But there is say you have a good fourth year  
14          apprentice, a good third year apprentice, a journeyman  
15          right now technically can't even leave the job to go  
16          to a doctor's appointment and leave those apprentices  
17          working. Uh, I would give a little recognition to  
18          some of those older apprentices and say if we can  
19          incorporate something that says, okay, the more of  
20          this you have the more of this you can have, something  
21          like that. That's just my two cents.

22  
23          And then circling back to the masters, um, I hold a  
24          license in several jurisdictions including several on  
25          the Eastern Seaboard. And with most of those every



1 one of them came with like a business and law test.  
2 Some of them have a state specific test. One state I  
3 am considered the contractor. Uh, we finished a job,  
4 a federal job at Fort Meade, Maryland, where I was the  
5 point of contact. I was the signer. I was the guy  
6 that was able to sign off on a service. I was -- and  
7 I have had to use some of that knowledge.

8  
9 I agree with most everybody here. A good eight-year  
10 journeyman should be the equivalent of a master on a  
11 job; however, there are certain things such as the  
12 business and law aspect that I have had to incorporate  
13 into, uh, on-the-job situations. Um, I don't want to  
14 see it go away. First off, I kind of feel it's a  
15 badge of honor. You've earned it. But, uh, times  
16 being what they are, you know, I'll leave that to the  
17 board.

18  
19 The only other thing I might say is I do agree with  
20 the two-year residential apprenticeship. I'm seeing a  
21 lot of kids nowadays that four and five years is a  
22 long time, and they don't want to invest it. Uh, so  
23 yes I do agree with something like that. Thank you.

24 Wing: All right. Thank you for your comments, sir.

25 Gyer: Um, I -- my name is Larry Gyer (ph). I am a

1 journeyman electrician in the State of Idaho and a  
2 master electrician in the State of Idaho. I'm also a  
3 master in Oregon and a master in Utah. I'm a  
4 representative of a electrical contracting firm  
5 Quality Electric located in Boise, Idaho. We've been  
6 doing business in Idaho and Eastern Oregon for over 59  
7 years. This company started like most companies with  
8 one person and grew today to employ over 280  
9 electricians which 70 of those are apprentices. We  
10 understand our industry and are committed to it at  
11 every level.

12  
13 The established ratio in Idaho of two apprentices to  
14 one journey-level worker is conducive to ensuring the  
15 proper safety and supervision of apprentices in the  
16 workplace. This is especially true in instances where  
17 the apprentice may be exposed to work conditions,  
18 tasks and/or equipment that pose a risk of serious  
19 bodily injury or death. In such cases it is  
20 critically important that apprentices receive proper  
21 guidance and supervision from experienced and capable  
22 journey-level workers who possess expert knowledge on  
23 how to mitigate such risks.

24  
25 The proposed changes have not been brought forward or



1 introduced by industry and do not represent us as a  
2 whole. The proposed changes are an attempt to im- --  
3 to improve or make it easier to conduct business in  
4 our great state which is a lie by a few individuals  
5 who can't effectively manage their own businesses and  
6 consider dumbing down the industry their answer.  
7 Instead, it will put our employees at risk, diminish  
8 the on-the-job training our apprentices receive, put  
9 the public at risk, and change the quality of product  
10 that we produce for our customers.

11

12 We would greatly appreciate the support of the State  
13 Electoral Board and the Division of Building Safety to  
14 vote in opposition of these changes. This is bad for  
15 business, bad for our industry, and bad for Idaho.

16 Thank you.

17 Frost: Thank you.

18 Wing: Thank you.

19 Krin: Steve Krin (ph), Napa, Idaho, Stevens Electric. Um, I  
20 think that a little confusion is that when there's a  
21 ratio of a 4:1 or 2:1 that it's mandatory. Um, but it  
22 should be pointed out that it's if you're not  
23 comfortable with 4:1, go 2:1. Um, I think if you've  
24 got a competent journeyman that can handle 4:1, let  
25 him handle -- let him have it. I think even a



1 commercial I'm fine with 4:1 in commercial. Um, I  
2 find it comical that in commercial and industrial guys  
3 come up here and, and tell a residential electrician  
4 how many apprentices he can have on the job site. How  
5 would you like it if I'm here telling you guys go 6:1,  
6 get rid of the ratio in commercial and industrial? If  
7 they can't handle standing on flat concrete looking at  
8 conduit, fine.

9  
10 But as far as it's a bookend. It's a personal choice.  
11 The government shouldn't be telling us how many and  
12 how many I'm comfortable with on my job site. To say  
13 every house is 3,000 square foot and bring up a burned  
14 outlet, half these houses sometimes are 2,000 square  
15 foot. You can see from one end to the other. You can  
16 manage four guys. If you got a couple fourth year or  
17 third year apprentices, you get a focus on the new  
18 guy. You get a focus and get hands-on with just one  
19 guy and let the other guys do what you've been  
20 training them for the last two, three years.

21  
22 So I mean, yeah, it's -- let's, let's, let's help  
23 industry out as far as getting more people involved  
24 and, and get rid of the ratio or, or keep -- or keep  
25 it higher. That's the one thing that hinders my



1 business from growth is that, uh, I can't hire the  
2 guys I want to hire.

3  
4 And one other thing I would say is let us hire some,  
5 uh, uh, summertime help, like kids in high school.  
6 Get them involved. I mean one thing that I can  
7 remember growing up was shop class. Like half these  
8 schools don't even have shop class anymore. And let  
9 us get some of these younger kids just summertime and  
10 show them a trade and, and spend some time with them,  
11 and it might be something that they can get along  
12 with. But don't count that against our ratio. Let  
13 us, let us have some hands-on with some summertime  
14 help, and, uh, I think it, it -- down the road it will  
15 get more people involved. Um, but yeah, I'd say  
16 either get rid of the ratio or, or open it up broad  
17 based for, uh, a 4:1 all across the board.

18 Wing: All right. Thank you.

19 Webb: Gentlemen, Jim Webb from College of Western Idaho.  
20 Mark over here is my boss. I can't help that. Just  
21 kidding. Uh, just one little thing that I notice is  
22 always missing when we have apprenticeship  
23 discussions. So if you're talking about ratios, you  
24 need to consider something. We have apprenticeship  
25 that has -- what is it? Well right from the upper



1 echelons of the federal government they have  
2 apprenticeship. The rule of thumb is the job teaches  
3 you how. The school teaches you why. Everybody wants  
4 to get that mixed up. But the school's job is why.  
5 So code theory, there is some how-to when it comes to  
6 more of the controls and that sort of thing. But so  
7 that is what apprenticeship is. So we have them six  
8 hours a week. Everybody else gets them 40 hours a  
9 week or more. So I just wanted to make sure that is  
10 understood. It's important to know when you're  
11 talking about ratios. It's the job that teaches how,  
12 not the school. So that's a very important  
13 consideration.

14 Wing: Jim, how does the federal government like the US  
15 Department of Labor set their standards as a 1:1  
16 ratio? What do they base that on?

17 Webb: I have no idea.

18 Wing: (inaudible - 01:18:36) surrounding this.

19 Webb: Yeah. I have no idea. I mean do they -- I didn't  
20 even know they have a 1:1 ratio, federal government.  
21 There's so many different things that they, they are  
22 wanting to, to drive home. I mean it's been very  
23 delightful to see, uh, from 10 years ago the federal  
24 government suddenly waking up and saying, hey, wait a  
25 minute, guys. Apprenticeship is important. You guys



1 are probably seeing a lot of this on television now.  
2 You didn't see that 10 years ago because they realized  
3 that we shouldn't be pushing every kid out there to a  
4 degree. These kids need to be recruited for  
5 apprenticeship in trades all over the country. So  
6 that's -- you see a big push right now in that. So  
7 does that -- okay. Thank you, guys.

8 Wing: Thank you, Jim.

9 Nelson: Okay. Um, David Nelson, journeyman, contractor. Um,  
10 I am plus on, uh, state tracking of apprentices and  
11 journeyman and masters if they choose. I think it's  
12 important to know who's working in the state, who's  
13 doing what work, just like (inaudible - 01:19:45).  
14 Got to know what jobs are going on. Um, as far as  
15 having well-rounded apprentices, I think it's -- I can  
16 only teach what I know. I'm hard-pressed to think  
17 that everybody in here knows everything.

18  
19 If the -- I think we're taking a lot of the, uh,  
20 individual choice of the, the worker. If he's out-  
21 paced me and decides that his career needs to go to  
22 doing motors, that's his prerogative. I don't involve  
23 myself in what he -- where he wants to take his  
24 career. I'll do everything I can to keep the guy,  
25 keep him happy, his family happy. But if he feels his

1 career has to go somewhere and he's out-paced what I  
2 have to teach him, so be it and he'll move on and  
3 evolve his career. Um, so I can't -- I'm not going to  
4 waste a whole lot of time in my business spending time  
5 teaching him things that we don't do because my  
6 customer requires me to be professional in that item  
7 that I do do.

8  
9 I think it's the contractor's responsibility to train.  
10 They need to take more responsibility for the  
11 apprentices. I think we passed it off to the schools  
12 to say well if you don't know how to run a motor or  
13 don't know how to do the thing that I'm asking you to  
14 do, then go read a book. We put too much  
15 responsibility on them that way. I think we as  
16 contractors need to create our side of the  
17 apprenticeship which is to train, but we can only  
18 train in what our jobs are allowing us to do.

19  
20 Um, as far as the burnt outlet, I -- we see that from  
21 time to time, loose connections. Lots of reasons for  
22 it. But that outlet was done underneath the current  
23 ratio, so clearly ratio didn't stop the outlet from  
24 getting burnt. So it happens all the time, but did  
25 the safety system work? Did it trip? Did all the



1 things happen that needed to happen? Who knows? But  
2 and there's not just that incident but other  
3 instances. Um, but having a qualified person who  
4 could follow up or warranty where a person went back  
5 and made the original and, and fixed it, that's all --  
6 all is managed as well as can be expected within the  
7 scenario.

8  
9 We put in thousands and thousands of outlets from  
10 journeymen all the way to apprentices putting them in  
11 and to expect every one to be foolproof, which is the  
12 goal, but we're striving for that goal. It's my  
13 responsibility as a contractor to have systems in  
14 place that double check my guys, that check the  
15 system, that quality check the house before I even  
16 hand it over or the, the industrial situation,  
17 whatever it might be.

18  
19 And I have a hard time reconciling the attitude  
20 towards -- I do a lot of residential work, so I'm  
21 biased on that side of it, but I have a hard time  
22 understanding why or reconciling that the ease and  
23 simplistic nature of homes and how it's looked down  
24 the nose at that type of work and that type of a  
25 journeyman or apprentice but then at the same hand say



1           you need to be 2:1, it's super easy to do but you  
2           should only be at 2:1. That doesn't make sense. If  
3           it's easy to do and it doesn't demand respect, that's  
4           fine but then allow us the ability to manage an easier  
5           task with manageable more guys. If it's hard to do,  
6           say in the commercial application and you're crossed  
7           over an entire warehouse or plant, then the contractor  
8           should be the one who says, look, you're going to need  
9           more journeymen for supervision on this job, and this  
10          is how I'm going to provide for that job. It's in my  
11          bid. Here you go and we can do it.

12  
13          I think the contractors need to step up and the state  
14          doesn't need to be on heavy handed over the top of  
15          everybody. And the consequence is simply you go out  
16          of business if you're not managing your guys right,  
17          and there's a lot of ways that will happen and shame  
18          on you for that. So that's my thought. Thanks.

19 Wing:       Thank you.

20 Male 6:     One more thing. We're making comical jokes up here,  
21           so for somebody to stand up here and tell you to get  
22           rid of ratios that's been fine numerous times for  
23           ratio issues that's comical. What you guys need to  
24           start doing is actually taking care of people that are  
25           abusing these rules and laws and actually fine them to



1 a point where they're getting hurt by it. The person  
2 that drives 120 miles an hour down I-84 and gets  
3 pulled over shouldn't go to his legislature and tell  
4 them to change the rules so he can drive 120 miles an  
5 hour. He needs to slow his ass down to 65. Pretty  
6 simple.

7 Frost: Do you mind if I have a follow-up?

8 Male 6: Yes, sir.

9 Frost: Right now an individual who's working out of ratio can  
10 get a \$200 fine.

11 Male 6: Yep.

12 Frost: What would, what would be appropriate?

13 Male 6: Well obviously that \$200 isn't hurting them, so the  
14 first --

15 Frost: That's per apprentice though.

16 Male 6: Per apprentice, that's great. So per apprentice and I  
17 just heard about somebody getting nailed with five  
18 apprentices on the job working without a journeyman.  
19 Anyhow, long story. I'm not going to get into that.  
20 But the fact is one, one time you get your \$200 fine.  
21 The next time you come in it's \$2,000. The next time  
22 you come in for the same issue because you're so  
23 bullheaded you won't listen, make it a \$20,000 fine.  
24 I don't care. But if they're not going to obey the  
25 rules and laws that you guys put up, then they need to

1 have their licenses jerked.

2 Wing: Thank you. Appreciate your comments.

3 Ballard: Troy Ballard, Idaho electric, uh, contractor,  
4 journeyman. Uh, the ratio 4:1 seems perfect for  
5 everyone in my opinion. When you're doing -- when  
6 you're training -- your journeymen are training those  
7 apprentices, as your apprentices get older they start  
8 to help train the younger apprentices, so your fourth  
9 year, your third year can help train your first year.  
10 That's kind of how you filter people in. If you start  
11 getting too many apprentices with a journeyman, you  
12 start to diminish the wage of a journeyman. Their  
13 value goes down as you put more apprentices. Less  
14 people actually feel the need to go to school to  
15 become a journeyman. So it kind of just draws down  
16 the value of our trade in general. Um, just my  
17 thoughts. Thank you.

18 Wing: All right. Thank you.

19 Heller: Patton Heller (ph). Um, I've never had employees, so  
20 I have no knowledge on ratio. But on the ratio can  
21 you do by years of experience rather than bodies? Say  
22 like, okay, if you have a three-year and a two-year,  
23 that equals like five years. Can you say you got to  
24 have at least, you know, six years of -- you can't  
25 have more than six years of experience or something

1           like that so you can't just have like four new guys or  
2           something like that? Do it by years rather than  
3           bodies. Does that make sense?

4 Wing:       It does. Thank you.

5 Meyers:     Dan Meyers, City of Napa. I'm a journeyman. Less  
6           regulation, yes. We can all use less regu- -- less  
7           regulation. Keeping track of the rules and the  
8           requirements can be a full-time job, a donning  
9           experience. Do we need to back some of that off?  
10          Yes. Can we increase the ratio? Maybe. It depends  
11          on the job. It really, truly depends on the job.

12  
13           With our booming economy and housing market right now  
14           you go out in some of these subdivisions, you look at  
15           the crews that are in these houses and you have to  
16           wonder. Who's licensed? Who's not? Who's got the  
17           experience? Who doesn't? It concerns me because  
18           what's the very first thing you see on TV at night if  
19           there's a house fire and they don't have a knocked-out  
20           specific cause? Oh, we think it was electrical. Mice  
21           with matches. We have to stop that.

22  
23           And as far as that outlet, my type is not the same as  
24           your type. You can ask Larry. He's my boss. When I  
25           say type, it's typed. You have to make sure your



1 people understand the definition of the word. Does --  
2 you know, you say design, build, install. I'm not  
3 qualified to build Micron (ph). Am I qualified as a  
4 journeyman to put an RV outlet on the side of a  
5 friend's house? Yes. But because of the master's  
6 requirement, I can't get my contractors to go do that.  
7 Now is it my responsibility as an electrician to  
8 continue my education? You're darn right. And to  
9 strive for that master's license, yeah I should be  
10 trying to do that. But there again it kind of depends  
11 on the situation you're looking at.

12  
13 You know, we have to keep in mind what's happening all  
14 the time. Each requirement is different, but we do  
15 need to back some of the regulation down on some of  
16 this stuff. Open the ratio, I can see opening the  
17 ratio, especially right now. But not to an unlimited  
18 situation where you have one supervisor sitting in a  
19 job shack in a supervision and he's got 20 crews out  
20 there roping houses. Or you got one supervisor  
21 sitting at Micron while you're doing a huge job or  
22 Amazon. I was around the Amazon project a little bit.  
23 That thing is freaking amazing how they do it, but you  
24 have to have strict supervision. What that is I can't  
25 tell you, but the ratio probably could stand to be



1 opened a little bit.

2 Wing: I appreciate it. We'll take two more comments. We're  
3 just about out of time.

4 Zeleski: Mark Zeleski (ph), journeyman wireman. Um, I did come  
5 in a few minutes late, so I apologize. What was your  
6 name, sir?

7 Frost: Tim Frost.

8 Zeleski: Tim Frost. Mr. Frost, I'll make sure you get data on  
9 the federal ratio.

10 Frost: Thank you.

11 Zeleski: Um, we'll get that in your hands because it's  
12 important. Um, I think that thing you read when you  
13 opened us up was looking at both fed and area  
14 practices.

15 Frost: Correct.

16 Zeleski: So we need to do that. Um, it was mentioned too, uh,  
17 summer helper project, you know, to get people  
18 through. That, that is already in place at the  
19 Darrell Dennis Technical Education Center. Our  
20 contractors can just contact them and get summer  
21 helpers. Kids in school right now who want to be in  
22 the trades. They're there already, so that program  
23 exists.

24

25 Um, the master electrician, I don't have a lot on that



1 other than to say that not unlike the national  
2 electrical code, most things were put into place for a  
3 reason, and one gentleman said that that could be  
4 stepping backwards removing that. I agree 100  
5 percent. You know, why would we step backwards? A  
6 board at some point decided that needed to be there,  
7 and I think we should keep it there.

8  
9 Um, the headline of these town hall meetings was what  
10 are the barriers in the rules? I don't think  
11 currently there's any barriers in these rules. They  
12 work fine. They've been working fine. Um, we've  
13 adjusted them as needed. The board's done a great job  
14 with that. And, uh, I don't see reducing any of them.  
15 Thank you.

16 Wing: All right. Thank you, Mark.

17 Morgan: Clay Morgan again. Um, yeah, the school program  
18 thing, that, that sounds like something that should  
19 certainly be pushed 'cause we need more -- obviously  
20 more electricians in this valley. There's a huge  
21 shortage. And what that gentleman over there said was  
22 probably one of the smartest things I've heard as far  
23 as ratio going by years, fourth years, third years.  
24 Uh, uh, that, that is something that should probably  
25 be looked at. Um, as a contractor, it's also our



1 responsibility to, like I believe he said, we're not  
2 going to throw a bunch of first year apprentices out  
3 there, uh, and not have them managed correctly.  
4 That's, that's not beneficial to us. It doesn't make  
5 sense to do. We should be able to, to some degree  
6 manage our own people based on their experience and  
7 their qualifications. But yeah, I, I definitely  
8 believe that that might be a good way to look at a  
9 ratio situation is by the years, fourth years, third  
10 years, second years. That just seems to make a lot of  
11 sense to me. Thanks.

12 Wing: All right. Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. All  
13 right. All right, folks. We got a lot of good, a lot  
14 of good feedback today, a lot of good ideas and things  
15 that, that I hadn't thought about. Um, we'll -- like  
16 I said, we're recording these. We'll be transcribing  
17 these, and we'll be looking at them. And here in the  
18 next future, you know, we're going to be putting these  
19 together, and you'll have plenty of opportunities to  
20 get in front of the board to discuss whatever, you  
21 know, it is -- wherever it is we land. And your, your  
22 thoughts and your concerns you'll be able to, you  
23 know, you'll be able to take those to the board and at  
24 the legislature if and when these go down to, to be  
25 adopted. So the -- we have another meeting coming up



1 here in about 25 minutes, so if you're not going to  
2 stay for that next meeting, just, just -- I just ask  
3 you to, you know, be out in time to let the next  
4 people come in. Thank you.

5 Male 7: (inaudible - 01:33:06).

6 Wing: What's that? And, and if you haven't signed in,  
7 please sign in. Did you say 10:30? Oh, the next  
8 meeting is at 10:30, so. Get out. So please, please  
9 sign in if you haven't signed in.

10

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DATED this 28th day of August, 2021.

  
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