

Post Falls Electrical Board Meeting

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1 Wing: Okay. So we'll go ahead and get started here. So my
2 name is Warren Wing. I'm the Electrical Program
3 Manager for the Division of Occupational and
4 Professional Licenses, formerly known as DBS. I'm
5 sure you guys have heard that there's been some
6 changes and there are changes going on. We're here to
7 talk about Zero-Based Regulations.

8
9 And Tim Frost, he's our, he's our, uh, Bureau Chief
10 for the Administration Section and -- he's the Bureau
11 Chief for the Administration Section over Legislative
12 Affairs. We'll kind of go into ZBR a little bit more
13 and answer any of your questions that you may have
14 particularly about ZBR and what it exactly is that
15 we're out here to do. MiChell Bird, she's our Bureau
16 Chief for the Construction and Real Estate section.
17 And we have Michael Hyde here. He's our HVAC Program
18 Manager, and John Nielsen who's our Plumbing Program
19 Manager.

20
21 Now after, after Tim gives his, um, introduction to
22 ZBR, I'll, I'll come up here and there's a couple of
23 questions, a couple of concerns or a couple items of
24 discussion that's come up pretty, pretty regularly
25 that we want to get your opinion on. And we'll do

1 that for about the first half of the meeting. This is
2 an hour and a half meeting. We'll do that for the
3 first half of the meeting. Then at the, the last half
4 of the meeting we'll go into kind of an open forum
5 where we want to just -- you know, we want to hear
6 your opinions about anything that, you know, that
7 you're concerned about right now going on with the,
8 with the electrical program and the rules in
9 particular.

10
11 And first before Tim Comes up, I know you're all busy,
12 and we appreciate you guys coming out here. This is
13 recorded. We're recording this. It will be
14 transcribed. There will be available on our webpage
15 for, for you to go back and look through if that's, if
16 that's your desire. So as you come up -- we need you
17 to come up. We can't have you just talking across
18 because this is not the best microphone in the world
19 and it just doesn't work with a lot of background
20 noise. So if you got something to say, something that
21 you want to get on record, you know, that -- you need
22 to come up.

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24 And as you come up, if you can just give us your name
25 and if you're, if you're licensed or not licensed,



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you're licensed in the State of Idaho or any other license, just kind of let us know a little bit about you and where you're coming from so that we kind of have an idea of well -- an idea of where you're coming from with your, you know, with your, uh, concerns. If you, if you represent a particular group, you know, feel free to share that with us also. That's, that's good information for us to have. As we compile all this information, it will be nice to be able to know where the, uh, concerns and the industry are coming from. So with that, I'll turn it over to Tim Frost and he'll, he'll discuss ZBR and, and the governor's intentions with that. Tim.

Frost:

Thanks, Warren. Uh, Tim Frost. I'm our Operations and Regulatory Bureau Chief at the Division. Um, first I'd like to appreciate and thank all of you guys for coming and taking your time out. Um, one thing we found as we've done these, uh, listening sessions across the state is that the trade industry is showing up and is engaged, and we appreciate that. As we go through our process, it's, it's really the only way for us to get good feedback and for our board to be able to evaluate that.

Um, to give some context on why we're having a, a



1 listening session and these public hearings is it
2 really goes back to 2017. Uh, at the time it was
3 Lieutenant Governor Brad Little issued an executive
4 order called the Licensing Freedom Act, and what it
5 did is it did a full thorough review of all the
6 agencies in Idaho and all the boards and commissions
7 that issue licenses, permits, registrations, did kind
8 of the initial data dump on here's the state of the
9 state when it comes to licensing. Um, and what we
10 found is we had well over 200 different licenses,
11 permit types, registration types. Uh, that was
12 administered by over 50 different boards across 10
13 different licensing systems and almost 15 different
14 agencies. And as a result of that, um, uh, when
15 Govern Little started his term, um, he wanted to start
16 working towards how can we build a more efficient
17 process for, um, these boards to work together, for us
18 to move towards one licensing system, one-stop-shop
19 for Idahoans, all of those same functionalities.

20
21 And so, um, one of the initial starts of that was, uh,
22 in 2019 he issued the Red Tape Reduction Act where he
23 asked all the boards and commissions to take a full,
24 thorough review of their rule chapter. Um, and it was
25 essentially a result of the legislature not, uh, not



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finalizing rules in 2019. And so it spurred a, uh, a historic event where it was a repeal and replace of all administrative rules in the State of Idaho. And so, um, all of our agencies held like 150 different public hearing processes, um, went, you know, fine-tooth comb through their rules, but it was in short, short period of time. It was over about a five-week time period. Um, and all Idaho administrative rules, including the trade boards, including everything, you know, that's not trade as well, um, simplified their rules by 75 percent. And so there was a lot of unnecessary duplications that were removed that were stated in statute, removed from rule.

Um, there was a lot of unnecessary barriers of things that, um, maybe had been in place in rule for 20 years but wasn't needed, wasn't relevant based off of technology and, and the new things in place. Um, so the historic efforts I think got to the point where both the legislature and the governor's office said how do we create and not spur this just on a one-year type basis? How do we create some stability in this? And so they looked at how other states have kind of historically approached this, and there's a number of different states who put in a review process or a



1 cycle review process. Colorado, Texas, there's a
2 number of -- uh, Oregon has a similar process as well.

3
4 Um, and every five years, uh, essentially what all
5 Idaho, uh, agencies are going to have to do we're put
6 under an executive order called Zero-Based Regulations
7 and every five years each board, their rule chapter is
8 going to be under a thorough review. And so that
9 review, um, goes through a process, uh, through the
10 governor's office and through the Division of
11 Financial Management where the board will repeal the
12 existing rule chapter and replace the chapter. And in
13 going through the replacement the board has to analyze
14 the life safety aspects of each of those rules that
15 they reauthorize.

16
17 And so, you know, while it seems a broad undertaking,
18 we've kind of got some guidelines by which we evaluate
19 each one of those rules. So we look at, um, how other
20 states, uh, approach the regulation. Are they more
21 restrictive? Are they less restrictive? And why?
22 You know, what are the objective measures that they
23 use in determining, um, why they've set their safety
24 parameters versus other states doing that? So the
25 board reviews that. We also, um, do a cost-benefit

1 analysis on each of these rules of, uh, is it working,
2 um, is the cost of this particular measure, um,
3 justified by the safety benefits that it's bringing?
4

5 It also -- you know, the review process kind of sheds
6 light on the, you know, scenarios where maybe a rule
7 was put in place for a unique intended purpose but
8 that purpose is no longer relevant and it no longer is
9 -- and so you get this bureaucratic inertia of the
10 pages just get longer and longer and longer, and you
11 take a look at them and it's like why is that, why is
12 that still there? Like we no longer do that. That's
13 no longer part of code. That, that whole thing was
14 related to the 2008 code or whatever the case is.
15

16 And so, um, it, it -- the process is going to be the
17 same for each single board. We have to ask these
18 questions for all of our rules. But, uh, from a
19 Division, from an agency perspective, from a board
20 perspective it gives us, us an opportunity to justify
21 why we have what we have. So, uh, it's, it's a good
22 process, and it's a little bit onerous but at the same
23 time, uh, we get to dive in to determine these are why
24 we have these safety parameters and, um, evaluate
25 other things of, you know what, there is no benefit to



1 life safety there and we can remove those barriers,
2 uh, barriers of entry or barriers into trade or, uh,
3 costs that are just passed down from the trade to the
4 consumer. So we're looking at this from a, a really
5 broad level. Everything's on the table.

6
7 So Warren is going to bring a lot of different topics
8 up today, and, you know, what we're looking for is
9 we're just looking for feedback. Um, wherever you are
10 in the continuum of you're completely supportive of
11 the idea or you're completely opposed to the idea, um,
12 we want to hear your feedback on it and, and kind of
13 why you believe certain things are, uh, connected to
14 life safety and certain things aren't connected to
15 life safety. Um, I'd encourage you all just to be
16 open and honest and give your opinion on it wherever
17 you do stand, uh, on that continuum, and I think
18 that's what helps our boards as we do this review.

19
20 So as we're having these public hearings now, our
21 rules process and the ZBR process starts for each one
22 of these boards in 2022. And so by doing it now we're
23 trying to do the preparation and the legwork and the
24 research now until the end of the year. That way when
25 our boards are actually going through the review



1 process and that repeal/replace that we've already
2 engaged the industry. We've already had some really
3 in-depth discussions about, um, the life safety
4 benefits of each of these particular rules. And so,
5 um, I'd be happy to take any questions about, you
6 know, the executive order or, um, the board's process
7 or any of that if, if anybody has them. Yeah.

8 Male 1: I have a question. So when the board makes a decision
9 and you have these hearings, does this still need to
10 go in front of the legislature and be voted on by the
11 legislature to adopt these changes?

12 Frost: That's correct. So what you look at, what you look at
13 from an Idaho administrative rule perspective is, um,
14 the timeline is we'll go through these hearings now.
15 Um, it's possible we might have some more hearings by
16 the end of the year, um, just to gather some more
17 feedback depending on where we are on the research.
18 Um, but the board will go through the process. In all
19 of 2022 it will be a negotiated rulemaking process
20 where there will be multiple opportunities for written
21 comment, public comment, um, drafts will be available.
22 People will be able to specify, you know, I agree on
23 that word versus that word.

24
25 You know, today we're not going to go into the weeds



1 of this word versus that word, more high level. Um,
2 but when the board makes a vote on that and, um, it
3 goes from proposed rules to pending rules, all pending
4 rules will get reviewed by the legislature in the 2023
5 legislative session.

6
7 And so according to our state constitution it was, uh,
8 it was an update back in the seventies or eighties
9 that required both of the, uh, both the Senate and the
10 House of Representatives to pass a concurrent
11 resolution for rules to go from pending status to
12 final status. And so yes the legislature has the
13 authority to, um, the legislature has the authority to
14 not adopt or reject what the, the board has, but
15 arguably if Idaho didn't have that process, the
16 legislature still has that authority. In other words,
17 um, our boards don't exist without legislative
18 authorization, and so, um, this just provides a, a
19 second checkmark if you will.

20
21 Um, and certainly in the past, you know, especially
22 with our Electrical Board, there have been a few key
23 topics that, um, the legislature maybe hasn't agreed
24 with the board on, and I think going through these,
25 these listening sessions and public hearing process,



1 documenting it, and getting both sides, really all
2 sides of these particular issues, we're hopeful that
3 that will help. In other words, remove some of the
4 maybe historical, um, you know, disagreements on these
5 topics or at least give light to hear the life safety
6 benefits on these, um, to give out some more
7 information for the legislature to make their
8 decision. Was that your question?

9 Male 1: I think it might have answered my question. I was
10 just going to ask what gave the board the authority to
11 change the legislative -- or is that the executive
12 order?

13 Frost: Uh, that's, that's, that's legislative. So our
14 boards, any -- and this really goes for just about
15 every state if we're talking Washington, Oregon. Uh,
16 the authority for the board to exist is a statute
17 authority. And so it defines the board's existence,
18 the scope of that board's authority, the practice act
19 surrounding that, and the board allowances or
20 limitations and the board's authority to adopt rules.
21 Um, so all of that sets in every state with the
22 legislature of how narrow that authority is versus how
23 broad that authority is. Um, so in Idaho it's, it's
24 no different there.

25 Male 1: Okay.

1 Frost: Yeah.

2 Male 2: So what happens if these rules sunset and they don't
3 come to some sort of agreement on them like they did
4 in 2019?

5 Frost: So we're, uh -- generally we have -- so if you look at
6 our -- if we're talking the Electrical Board, we'll
7 just, we'll just stick with it there -- um, the board
8 is required by law to adopt a number of different
9 rules. In other words, um, the ability to just have
10 statutes and not have a rule chapter at all wouldn't
11 be legal for our Division to follow forward. In other
12 words, the legislature has mandated themselves for the
13 board to act and adopt rules around certain elements,
14 and so we're required to. So now you say, um, if the
15 legislature denies the entire rule chapter and says we
16 don't want rules, they could certainly do that but
17 that would be in conflict of their own laws that they
18 created themselves, so.

19 Male 2: (Inaudible - 00:13:49).

20 Frost: Uh, you're saying if, if it's rejected. So what's
21 happened in the last three years -- this has actually
22 happened three years in a row of the legislature
23 hasn't had a concurrent resolution on all rules. And
24 it isn't specific to each one of the -- and this is
25 weird Idaho nuance. But all administrative rules

1 period across the board, so we're talking 7,000 or
2 8,000 pages of rules, um, were not -- basically not
3 agreed on by the House and the Senate because the
4 argument is the want one house or one side of the
5 rotunda to be able to reject rules and not have a
6 concurrent resolution. Again, it goes back to the
7 constitution. Um, if they don't have a concurrent
8 resolution, the only way for us to have administrative
9 rules is for the governor to reauthorize temporary
10 rules.

11
12 And so in March of, uh, 2019, April of 2020, and then
13 July of 2021, each of those times you would see -- if
14 you follow the history -- um, the Office of Rules
15 Coordinator issued a special bulletin of a
16 reauthorization of all rule chapters and that came
17 under the governor's emergency authority. So if this
18 were to continue to happen, um, at some point after
19 the legislature going and signing next year after the
20 2022 session, if there's no agreement on
21 administrative rules, you're going to see the same
22 governor emergency temporary reauthorization so we
23 have protections in place. In other words, we don't
24 have a gap between the legislature. Does that make
25 sense?

1 Male 2: Yeah. So is that all existing rules that we see on a
2 daily basis or is there a true baseline of minimum
3 rules that they sign off on --

4 (Crosstalk)

5 Frost: It is all. So the, the reality is the concurrent
6 resolution that the legislature agrees on is not just
7 the, uh, few things that, you know, I'm going to pull
8 out this rule 'cause I disagree with this rule. It's
9 a concurrent resolution on all administrative rules.
10 And so when we're talking about a reauthorization,
11 what's happened the last three years is all 8,000
12 pages of administrative rules every single year. So
13 it's been an interesting process to navigate to say
14 the least.

15
16 But our, our goal in it is to make sure we don't have
17 that lapse of what you're talking about. We want to
18 have rules in place so our inspectors have the ability
19 to enforce the code compliance and keep, uh, the
20 ability to, to take action on bad actors if we need to
21 be and also keep our safety standards that the
22 industry and board have worked on for years and years
23 and years, so. Any last questions? Appreciate it.

24 Wing: Thank you, Tim. Okay. So if there's no further
25 questions for Tim on that, we're going to start out

1 with the master electrician question. Okay. We've
2 been getting a lot of, um, questions and feedback and
3 ideas about the master electrician requirement. So we
4 currently just to kind of let you know where the state
5 is right now, where it's been for I think since 2008
6 is in order to own a contracting company you have to
7 have a master electrician signing for you, right.

8
9 Now the reality of it is that we have a lot of
10 contractors who are not master electricians because
11 they -- everyone likes to use the word grandfathered
12 in, right, where they're journeyman electricians.
13 Facilities, if, if there's a facility that wants to do
14 their own electrical work, their own installations, I
15 mean the exact same scope of work that an electrical
16 contractor does, they're only required to have a
17 journeyman electrician. They're not required to have
18 a master electrician.

19
20 Okay. So the question comes up is there actually a
21 safety benefit for the master electrician or can some-
22 -- can a journeyman who's got four years of experience
23 or should a journeyman who has four years' experience
24 be able to open an electrical contracting company
25 without having to take that master electrician exam?



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2 One of the reasons this question is coming up because
3 companies -- if you look at the actual definition of
4 master electrician in the State of Idaho, it says that
5 individual who has the necessary knowledge and
6 experience to design, layout and plan electrical
7 installations. Okay. So what's happening is that
8 those contractors who have master electricians are
9 coming to us and saying those contractors who don't,
10 those grandfathered in contractors, contractors who
11 have a journeyman as their signatory for a facility
12 account well they should have to go out and get an
13 engineered set of plans because they don't have the
14 necessary -- by definition, they don't have the
15 experience or the qualifications to design, layout and
16 plan electrical installations.

17
18 So the question is, is there, is there a safety
19 benefit of having the master electrician license? Is
20 the master electrician qualifier, is it doing what the
21 intended role, you know, was, was set in place to do?
22 Is there safety concerns around that? So I'd just
23 like to have your thoughts on that, and like I said,
24 if you have, if you have a thought on it, please come
25 up here and speak into the microphone and address

1 everyone out here so we can hear what your thoughts on
2 that are. And with that, I'll go ahead and turn it
3 over to you.

4 Franssen: My name is Hunter Franssen. I am a master
5 electrician. Um, I wasn't really prepared to speak on
6 this specific, uh, topic; however, I think having a
7 master electrician -- if I'm not mistaken, I think the
8 pass rate for a master electrician in the State of
9 Idaho is anywhere between 17 and 22 percent. That
10 kind of tells me that that's more of the elite people
11 who are out there in our industry, and I think that we
12 want those people representing the electrical industry
13 and the proper installations and, you know, overseeing
14 everything and making sure that everything is being
15 done to meet or exceed code as it sits right now. So
16 that's my opinion on that.

17 Wing: Can I ask you a follow-up question?

18 Franssen: Absolutely.

19 Wing: Do you -- can you identify a specific safety concern
20 with not having a master electrician? I mean 'cause
21 what we're hearing, what we're hearing from industry -
22 - I'll give you an example. We got a company in
23 Southern Idaho that has like over 230 employees. They
24 got one master electrician. The master electrician is
25 not on everyone's jobs. It's the journeymen that are

1 actually running that. So the question comes up
2 where's the safety issue in that if you're not
3 actually running most of the jobs and designing and
4 planning (inaudible - 00:20:32)?

5 Franssen: The master electrician as I understand it is the one
6 who signs off on all the projects, uh, confirming that
7 they are in fact, uh, you know, up to code and
8 everything. Is that not how the master electrician is
9 set up in the State of Idaho?

10 Wing: He's ultimately responsible for the installation.

11 Franssen: Correct. So is it the intent to make all of the
12 journeymen after they have four years of four
13 experience more or less be able to run these jobs and
14 take on all the responsibility that the master
15 electrician is currently taking on?

16 Wing: Well that's kind of what we're asking you. What
17 should be the intent? You know, should a journeyman
18 electrician with four years of experience be able to
19 start his own company?

20 Franssen: In my opinion, no. I've been doing this for about 12
21 years now and I know when you start out as a
22 journeyman even fresh in your first year it's often
23 times a daunting task 'cause you don't have anybody
24 overlooking you, overlooking your shoulder, making
25 sure you're doing everything correct. But half the

1 time it is the master electrician that sets forth the
2 scope of work, the plans, everything that's signed off
3 on, and often times I believe that they are supposed
4 to come in and confirm the work was done properly and
5 sign off on it.

6 Wing: Okay.

7 Franssen: Unless I'm mistaken.

8 Wing: Appreciate it.

9 Franssen: Thank you.

10 Wing: Appreciate you coming. Would anybody else like to
11 address this? Sir? Absolutely.

12 Baker: Hello. Uh, Nathan Baker, United Electrical. I'm a, a
13 master electrician and when I, I decided -- I went in
14 and got the master electrician's test. There was -- I
15 come from a family of electricians and my business
16 partner Jason is not a master electrician. Um,
17 there's nothing in reality that says that he is less
18 apt to be able to handle layout. And he has more
19 experience than I do, and he's actually better at
20 commercial layout than I am. So the fact that I went
21 and took that master electrician's test doesn't
22 innately qualify me for anything. It just, you know,
23 says I, I knew how to basically read that plan. Um,
24 not that somebody like my brother couldn't go and
25 probably pass a master electrician test right now.

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Now the, the safety question that comes to my mind is we don't, we don't generally have engineered plans for most projects anyway. So for a person who says well I'm assigning a master electrician, these guys should go get their plans signed, well I don't recall having mostly any of my plans signed by anybody. You know, and I'm not an engineer so I can't engineer a set. If I need something engineered, I'd have to have an engineer stamp off on it.

So correct me if I'm wrong, but my license doesn't qualify me in any higher level to assure installations than any journeyman does. That's what the inspector does. He approves the installation once it's done. There's no pre-setup to do it. So I don't -- unless there's some other mechanism in place, I mean as these things -- as the grandfathered companies grandfather out and then people have to have master electricians I think it's a self-solving problem if you want to leave it in place. I don't see a big safety issue with it, but if it's a requirement, then it's a requirement.

As things time out, the journeymen -- the journeymen companies are going to time out eventually, you know.



1 I mean a lot of those companies are probably timing
2 out now. You know, that 17 percent is probably a lot
3 of younger contractors that, that need to have them.
4 So but safety concerns I don't really see it. Most of
5 the journeymen that are doing it right now are
6 probably overqualified to do these installations, so.

7 Wing: Appreciate it. Would anybody else like to address
8 this?

9 Wideman: Hi. My name is Mark Wideman, journeyman electrician,
10 State of Idaho. I wasn't prepared to come in here and
11 talk at all. I just wanted to listen, see what's
12 going on, kind of curious. I do have the equivalent
13 of a masters in a different state. I have no desire
14 to take that test ever again. Um, I think that if
15 somebody -- if a journeyman electrician has perhaps,
16 you know, 12,000, 16,000 hours, um, you know, maybe
17 four years is a little premature, but given the amount
18 of hours I think that, uh, they should be able to get
19 their contractor's license or, or be able to assume
20 the duties of a master electrician. That's all I
21 have. Thanks.

22 Wing: Appreciate that.

23 Stenberg: My name is Matt Stenberg. I'm a journeyman
24 electrician, uh, licensed in three different states
25 and I've also done a fair amount of work abroad in

1 other countries outside of U.S. jurisdiction. So I've
2 been able to see a lot of different, uh, qualities of
3 installation, and I really have an appreciation for,
4 um, minimum standards that are associated with
5 licensing.

6
7 Um, on a lot of the jobsites that I've been on here in
8 the U.S. as well as abroad, um, the question has come
9 up what does a master license get you, and the answer
10 that's most commonly given is you take your master
11 license and five bucks and you can usually get a cup
12 of coffee most anywhere. It isn't viewed as being
13 some notch on your belt or some symbol of elevated
14 capacity.

15
16 But the fact of the matter is that test is a bugger,
17 and being able to pass that minimum qualification to
18 be able to pass that, um, and prove that you have the
19 capacity of making these greater calculations and
20 having a more in-depth knowledge of the code I believe
21 has merit.

22
23 So we have these minimum qualifications that you have
24 to meet in order to be licensed as a journeyman and
25 then to be licensed as a master a higher set of

1 qualifications. And again, these are just minimums.
2 So in order to do business as a contractor in order to
3 have that, um, liability taken on to be able to prove
4 that you have somebody under your employ or you
5 yourself have those higher set of capabilities I think
6 that's a valid reason to keep the master license.

7 Wing: Appreciate your thoughts on that. Anybody else? Oh,
8 come on up.

9 Iiams: Mike Iiams, Acme Electric (ph). I've been, uh, doing
10 this since '91, and I've -- uh, over the years we
11 don't turn out a lot of journeymen, but I'm always a
12 bit disappointed when a guy gets his journeyman card
13 and then he's like all right I'm ready to go, and the
14 level of, uh, knowledge and being able to think on
15 your own is many times lacking. And I can't imagine
16 that guy being given the privilege of going out and
17 starting his own company and thinking with his
18 skillset that he's suddenly now, uh, you know -- I
19 think of it in terms of doctors, you know. The guy's,
20 uh, first day on the job and he's going to work on my
21 brain. I don't think so.

22
23 And so to me it takes some years and some experience
24 and some life, uh, you know, working on different
25 kinds of jobs and seeing so many things that you just

1 can't learn in a classroom and even like you -- as
2 Nathan said, you go, you go out on the, uh, first time
3 you're out on the job and you're like oh it's my
4 responsibility now to think of all these things that
5 you've been handfed for a long time, and it's a whole
6 different, uh, thought process to now suddenly take it
7 on, uh, yourself and take that responsibility. So,
8 um, I do see there needs to be some teeth in the
9 system that says you're going to be a master. That
10 should mean something. It's a couple stripes on the,
11 on the arm, and, um, um, it's hard to keep up with all
12 the rules.

13
14 And I view code as the minimum. It is the minimum
15 code, and if you only wire the minimum code and never
16 have been exposed to, uh, a greater level, uh, uh,
17 quality and sophistication, then, uh, I think, I think
18 you're in trouble if you think you're going to go out
19 and start a business and wire to minimum code all the
20 time. So, uh, I, I do think there needs to be some
21 teeth and, uh, if you can't pass a master
22 electrician's test -- and let it be tough, that's
23 fine, um, it separates the men from the boys kinda
24 sorta. So, um, let's, let's keep the standards up
25 and, uh, and we need to prove, we need to prove our

1 competence and, um, keep the system, um, in place.
2 Wing: All right. Appreciate that. Okay. The next question
3 that's coming up has to do with what the -- where we
4 define electrical contracting work. It says,
5 "Contracting work includes electrical maintenance or
6 repair work in addition to new electrical
7 installations unless such work is expressly exempted."
8 Okay. So we're seeing an increase -- I'm sure it's
9 happening here. It's happening all across the state.
10 We're seeing an increase of people coming in from out
11 of state and the idea of handymen.

12
13 Okay. So the question that I'm being asked is, is
14 there certain portions of the electrical trade kind of
15 like we have our limited electrical trades right now -
16 - we have nine different licenses -- are there certain
17 portions of the electrical trade that could be
18 exempted for handymen to allow to do, to allow to do?
19 Like I'm getting the idea of replacing receptacles,
20 replacing lights, installing ceiling fans, things like
21 that. Um, right now -- and, and basically doing
22 maintenance.

23
24 Right now if you, if you work for a facility, there's
25 no license required at all for maintenance, to do

1 electrical maintenance, right. You can repair and
2 replace as long as it's a like-for-like type of thing,
3 right. Now they can't -- you can't go into somebody's
4 house or somebody's property and do maintenance unless
5 you're an electrical contractor. So the question
6 comes up is, is there room for a handyman to be able
7 to do a certain scope of electrical work that could be
8 exempted? And we would just like to hear your
9 thoughts on that.

10 Brown: Good morning. Thanks again for the opportunity to
11 speak on this. My name is Ken Brown. I'm journeyman
12 electrician, Idaho and Washington, Business Manager
13 with Electrical Workers, uh, Local 73. We cover the
14 jurisdiction of the North Idaho, the 10 northern
15 counties in Idaho. We have 700 electricians we
16 represent, 200 of them reside in Washington. Uh, they
17 all work in and around Washington and Idaho, and so
18 that's a little bit about me and who I'm representing
19 here today.

20
21 As far as a handyman doing electrical work, I don't
22 think there's any room for that. You've said we've
23 already got, you know, nine subcategories of
24 electricians. I don't think as far as the life safety
25 issue that's a good direction to go. I think it's a

1 dangerous direction to go. There's going to be -- I
2 had a conversation this morning. There's going to be
3 some mission creep. You know, hey, I'm here to change
4 your lightbulbs, and oh yeah, I can probably upgrade
5 your service too. Just don't tell anybody.

6
7 I just think that that has got -- uh, it's just ripe
8 for abuse and, uh, fraud and overuse and as far as a
9 life safety issue it's just terrible. There's no
10 responsibility as an electrician for a handyman to do
11 electrical work and somebody gets hurt. I just can't
12 think of, uh, that being even considered.

13 Wing: Okay. Can I ask a follow-up question and --

14 Brown: Yeah.

15 Wing: -- kind of expand the topic at the same time. So I'm
16 sure -- and we all know about it. The inspectors
17 especially know about it. So a lot of times you'll
18 get -- in the State of Idaho a homeowner can pull a
19 permit to do work on their residence if you will. Um,
20 and you know, you as the electrician we know when a
21 homeowner gets -- or an inspector and a electrician
22 and you know when the homeowner did the work or when
23 that fourth year apprentice down the street did the
24 work, right.

25

1 Currently if that happens or even if a handyman comes
2 in and does the work under a homeowner's permit, the
3 most we can do for a first violation is a \$200 civil
4 penalty. So when these civil penalties and these
5 situations come up when we're fining people like that,
6 would you, would you, um, support an increase in those
7 civil penalties for something like that?

8 Brown: Yes. Yeah, I would. And that would be a board,
9 right, board decision, inspector decision. If it
10 would, uh, move the mission for the inspectors towards
11 more life safety and more compliance, I would support
12 that.

13 Wing: All right. Thank you, sir.

14 Brown: Thanks.

15 Franssen: I'm Hunter Franssen again. Um, I, I think it's a very
16 poor decision to move to have any handyman do any sort
17 of electrical installations. And frankly, I think
18 electrical contractors being the only ones who can
19 pull the permits I, I don't think homeowners should be
20 able to pull their permits either because I've been to
21 way too many remodels, rentals and stuff where the
22 homeowner pulls the permit, a handyman or a friend of
23 a friend does the work. It's all subpar. None of it
24 gets inspected or it gets covered up with sheetrock
25 really quick so that it can't be inspected. And

1 there's not really a lot of provisions that make them
2 go in there and remove the sheetrock because it looks
3 like it's, you know, more of a headache than it's
4 possibly worth because you assume that these people
5 are doing things to code minimums which often times
6 they're not.

7
8 I can't tell you how many kitchens I've been to where
9 there's buried, uh, junction boxes or just spliced
10 wires in the walls or old houses down the Coeur
11 d'Alene that have knob-and-tube that's just been
12 spliced into from people that have a little bit of
13 electrical knowledge and not enough to be a contractor
14 or pass a test or hold a license.

15
16 Um, I personally think that -- I, I would rather be
17 proficient in one thing than mediocre in a lot of
18 things. Um, another perfect example, I get the idea
19 of R&R the same sort of thing. Uh, ceiling fans are a
20 big thing, especially during the summertime. Most
21 handymen are going to go in there, look, hang that
22 ceiling fan in a plastic or a big light box which is
23 rated at 15 pounds. It's got two nails that hold it
24 in there. I've been to at least five installations
25 where the ceiling fan has come down, the box has let



1 go, and it's wires that's holding this fan that's
2 usually over either the master bed or the kid's
3 bedroom. And so you got the fan that's potentially on
4 and falls down.

5
6 I, I think there's way too many life safety concerns,
7 and frankly I don't think that homeowners should be
8 able to pull their own permits because it opens it up
9 to issues of handymen overstepping their boundaries.

10 Wing: I appreciate your feedback.

11 Franssen: Mm-Hmm.

12 Stenberg: Matt Stenberg once again. Uh, since this topic was
13 opened up a little bit too, um, I feel more broadly
14 just the question of who should or should not be able
15 to do electrical work without a license. Yeah, we've
16 all gone into different places where the homeowner
17 obviously did this work 'cause it's subpar or they had
18 that fourth year from down the street do it under the
19 table because he's a starving apprentice or they had
20 maintenance electricians do it who are not proficient,
21 who are not qualified to be working on a lot of these
22 installations.

23
24 In a lot of cases these people who are not qualified
25 as -- I mean they are maintenance electricians but not



1 being qualified, not being licensed to a minimum
2 standard in a commercial setting, in a light
3 industrial setting. A lot of times those
4 installations are the scariest for us to get into. As
5 soon as you find evidence that oh the maintenance
6 electrician has been in here getting over his head,
7 all of a sudden that becomes a much more critical
8 problem that we have to look a lot deeper into and
9 find out are there any other life safety concerns in
10 this installation.

11
12 So should a handyman be able to do, change a
13 lightbulb? That may seem simple but more often than
14 not in that case of installing a bedroom ceiling fan
15 they know just enough to be dangerous. Same thing
16 with maintenance electrician down at Buck Knives (ph).
17 They know just enough to be dangerous. I don't want
18 to call any specific individual under the bed -- or
19 out, throw him under the bus as it were. Um, I don't
20 know any of the guys that work at Buck Knives, but
21 case in point, if you're going to be doing electrical,
22 you need to qualify for that minimum standard. You
23 need to be licensed.

24 Wing: All right. Thank you.

25 Beierle: My name is Kyle Beierle. I'm a journeyman lineman for

1 the utility. And my concern is you're talking about
2 plant electricians. The voltages are different.
3 That's spooky. You start getting into 480 dry
4 transformers with no training, that kind of stuff.
5 The hazard increases in my opinion, uh, when you start
6 putting multiple voltages, uh, multiple phases in
7 play. So as far as a handyman, uh, plant electrician
8 that hasn't gone through a formal training program I
9 think it's just a, a poor decision, safety wise. And
10 that's kind of my take on it.

11 Wing: All right. Appreciate that.

12 Wideman: Yeah, Mark Wideman, journeyman electrician, State of
13 Idaho. You said there's nine different subpar of the
14 electrical -- in the electrical trade alone or is that
15 different trades?

16 Wing: There's, there's nine electrical -- limited electrical
17 licenses that --

18 Wideman: Oh.

19 Wing: -- allows for people to do work.

20 Wideman: And none of them encompass something like that. Yeah.
21 I don't, I don't see any need whatsoever for, for
22 maintenance or whatever you want to call that type of
23 electrician. On the other hand though, I don't, I
24 don't see where we need to be infringing on the
25 homeowner's right to be able to do his work at all

1 whatsoever, not more regulation, you know. Just -- I
2 just don't see that. Um, there has to be within those
3 nine there should be some kind of parameters that
4 cover something like that. I haven't looked into it.
5 I'm not really -- you know, but, um, I mean the
6 homeowners, you know, he is responsible for his house.
7 I mean so if he's going to screw it up, then it's on
8 him and the liability is on him and whatnot. So I
9 don't think we need to be going after the homeowner.

10 Wing: Okay. Can I ask you --

11 Wideman: Absolutely.

12 Wing: So if a homeowner, if a homeowner hires someone to --
13 because right now the way the law reads is the
14 homeowner is the only person that could not be
15 licensed to do that -- to perform that installation on
16 his house.

17 Wideman: Mm-Hmm.

18 Wing: So when the homeowner pulls in somebody else to do
19 that work, um, again our civil penalties are \$200. Do
20 you think that if the homeowner does that then it's
21 appropriate to, to, uh, assess the penalties on the
22 people the homeowner is bringing in or do you think
23 the homeowner should just take responsibility for that
24 installation?

25 Wideman: Homeowner taking -- we take responsibility for our

1 actions.

2 Wing: Okay.

3 Wideman: The homeowner, all on the homeowner.

4 Wing: Appreciate your comments. We're looking for different
5 feedback (inaudible - 00:42:29). That's great.

6 Baker: Nathan Baker, master electrician. Um, short and sweet
7 on the first question. No, I don't think they should.
8 Uh, there's no way to gauge and to allow for that work
9 to be happening. There's no inspection process for
10 that work to be happening, you know. I think that
11 work happens. Painters take lights off, put them back
12 on. I know more than a few people probably had to go
13 back and figure out why the lights don't work. Um,
14 this probably isn't what you were hoping for.

15

16 But the, uh, one thing that I did want to talk about
17 with the specialty licenses that I would love to throw
18 out in a conversation is can we figure out a mechanism
19 to allow for floor installers to install their own
20 floor heating and have a minimum license to do so?
21 That's one element of work that came out of category
22 and, and got into our category, and I understand why.
23 It -- can we entertain the notion of getting floor
24 installers base licensing to do the install of the
25 floor heat? Just wanted to throw that one out there.



1 Wing: No, appreciate that. Additional comments?

2 Male 3: One of the things I think should be mentioned -- one
3 other thing I think should be mentioned on the topic
4 of homeowners pulling their permits and whatnot is a
5 lot of these homeowners are literally flipping these
6 houses. Them taking responsibility for it is one
7 thing. If it's them themselves, their family and that
8 they're confident that they're doing the right install
9 to live there. But especially in our economy right
10 now so many houses is being flipped. It's as cheap as
11 possible to be as profitable as possible. And these
12 guys don't care if they're cutting corners or whatever
13 it takes to make the most money.

14 Wing: Okay. Can I ask you a follow-up question?

15 Male 3: Absolutely.

16 Wing: So I'll just, I'll just be straight up, just 100
17 percent honest with you. You're, you're never going
18 to see the homeowner (inaudible - 00:44:37).

19 Male 3: Sure.

20 Wing: It's just not going to happen. It's going to be
21 allowed to go on, and they're going to be allowed to
22 do it. For good or bad, everyone's going to have an
23 opinion on that. Okay. But the way the law is
24 written right now is that they're allowed to do --
25 homeowner is allowed to do work on your primary and

1 secondary residence including all property on that
2 primary/secondary residence as long as it's not
3 commercial. And also you got, you got an individual
4 that owns 120 acres and he's got a house and a
5 detached garage. That's okay. But he can't build a
6 5,000 square foot shop where he's going to be making,
7 you know, gas or, you know, fire logs to sell or
8 something like that. He's got to, he's got to hire a
9 contractor to do that. It's got to -- it can't be
10 commercial. It's got to be residential with the
11 house.

12
13 Okay. So what we also know that people are flipping
14 it. We have no -- there's no enforcement. I mean
15 we'll get an inspector standing back here. Unless we
16 -- unless someone is -- this is the way it goes. The
17 inspector rolls out, you know, what's going on here?
18 Oh, I'm building a house. Are you living here? No.
19 I'm going to sell it. Right. And then they get a
20 notice of violation. Oh, well we decided to stay.
21 Okay. So I've heard the idea come up of well should
22 they have to live in it for a year before they can
23 sell it? Well then there's no way to enforce that
24 either, right. So from a state agency, you know, with
25 your ideas, how do we enforce something like that?

1 Male 3: I think enforcement by means of increasing the
2 penalties is a, is a big thing. You hit people in the
3 pocketbook that's where a lot of them change their
4 ways and stuff. But I mean increasing even the first
5 offense to \$1,000. And frankly, if a homeowner has a
6 licensed or unlicensed individual helping them, I
7 think it should be the homeowner plus the individual
8 or whoever that is helping that is facing these
9 different penalties, not just one takes the liability
10 for the whole thing. It's all parties involved should
11 be penalized for it.

12 Wing: I guess let me see if I can clarify my question. So
13 how do we enforce those penalties on a flipper who we
14 don't know is a flipper until he's flipped the house,
15 and then once he's flipped the house he told us well
16 they changed their mind. They were going to live in
17 it.

18 Male 3: I would have to do some research on that. I do not
19 under- -- I do not know. Um --

20 Wing: I don't either.

21 Male 3: -- I guess the short thing would be maybe looking at
22 the last permit date prior to the house closing and
23 seeing -- doing some investigation based on what was
24 done during that time period.

25 Wing: I'd appreciate that. It's not, it's not an easy --

1 Male 3: No, definitely.

2 Wing: (Inaudible - 00:47:21). So any other comments on the
3 topic before we move on? Yes. Okay. You, you, you,
4 you stood up first.

5 Vogel: My name is Kevin Vogel. I'm retired as most of you
6 know. Um, I'm a, uh, master electrician in Washington
7 State, a journeyman electrician in the State of Idaho,
8 and a licensed professional engineer. The question
9 that Warren has posed here I wanted to comment on, uh,
10 regarding the house flippers. And Washington State is
11 in the process of, uh, reviewing this very issue and
12 issuing, um, regulations to restrict the house
13 flipping. I -- I'm not conversant with what those
14 rules are, but they'd be worthwhile to check with
15 Olympia to see what they're planning.

16 Wing: Okay. Can I -- are, are they having -- is Washington
17 having safety issue with house flippers?

18 Vogel: Not that I know but you know Washington.

19 Wing: Yeah.

20 Vogel: Um, yeah. Uh, they, they may have problems. I don't
21 know.

22 Wing: I appreciate it. I appreciate you talking to us.

23 Vogel: Okay.

24 Wing: Go ahead.

25 Brown: Again, my name is Ken Brown. Uh, yeah. Washington

1 State passed that house -- they call the house flipper
2 bill for electricians. It was Senate Bill 5267. And
3 a short comment from the chief electrical inspector
4 about that was, "The law is designed to protect
5 homebuyers from shoddy electrical wiring. We have
6 many examples of unsafe wiring performed by property
7 flippers resulted in new owners having to hire
8 electrical contractors to make repairs, sometimes at a
9 significant cost." So Senate Bill 5267.

10 Bird: From this session.

11 Brown: Yes.

12 Bird: Thank you.

13 Wing: I really appreciate that.

14 Brown: Yeah. It was a 2020 -- 2021 session.

15 Wing: That's really good. That's, that's what we're looking
16 for, stuff like that. And I wish I could be in every
17 state every time but I just am not. Okay. So for the
18 next looks about, about 40 minutes we're going to do
19 an open forum, but I am going to throw one topic out
20 there that we've been getting a lot of, uh, feedback
21 on.

22
23 So about two years ago -- and this last year also when
24 the rules are ran the legislature removed, um, ratios
25 from our rules. So what they left us with was, "It

1 shall be the responsibility of the employing
2 contractor to ensure that each apprentice trainee and
3 provisional journeyman perform electrical work only
4 under the constant on-the-job supervision and training
5 of a journeyman installer." Okay. That's what we
6 were left with.

7
8 Now the, the board was tasked with putting back in
9 temporary, you know, new rules -- kind of like your
10 question earlier what happens when the rules are gone?
11 They were tasked with putting in temporary rules,
12 emergency rules if you will to cover the ratio and
13 what they settled on was in a one or two family
14 dwelling units it was a 4:1 ratio and everything else
15 is a 2:1 ratio. Okay. But there's still a lot of
16 questions out there about what is the proper ratio?
17 You know, is no ratio a proper ratio? What happens if
18 it's left with just this and it says it shall be the
19 responsibility of the employing contractor to ensure
20 that each apprentice trainee -- so basically put, put
21 the ratio on the contractor.

22
23 Those nine limited electrical licenses that we have,
24 they range anywhere from -- I don't know if you guys,
25 you know, if you guys are familiar with them or if you

1 look at them, but there's elevator dumbwaiter, there's
2 signs, manufacturing, assembly equipment, limited
3 energy, uh, well driller, pump installers,
4 refrigeration, heating, and outside wireman. You
5 know, so there's anything from, you know, very small
6 voltage all the way up to outside wireman can be
7 working on a million volts, right. And not only is
8 there no ratio for those guys but there's no education
9 requirement for those guys, right. So we have nine
10 licenses, and we got to look at this from a ZBR
11 perspective, right.

12
13 We got to look at other states, what their ratios are,
14 and if they're higher or lower than we are, we have to
15 explain why. And if their ratio is less than what our
16 ratio is, we have to justify the safety issue and why
17 Idaho needs a higher ratio than, you know, these other
18 states do. So with that in mind, for the next 40
19 minutes I'd love to hear your, um, your comments on
20 the ratio and then any other topic that you'd like to
21 bring up. It's kind of an open forum now.

22 Brown: All right. Uh, my name is Ken Brown, uh, journeyman
23 electrician. And, um, I believe that the ratios, you
24 know, I, I think a 1:1 is the best ratio as far as
25 safety and training and, and learning the best. I

1 know the State of Idaho has been 1:2 for quite some
2 time. Um, I don't know if it was the last legislative
3 session or the one prior it was kind of whirlwind with
4 the ratio concerns down the legislatures last couple
5 of sessions, but however that got changed, you know,
6 1:2 for commercial, 1:4 for residential single and
7 two-family dwellings, right, that's where it sits
8 right now.

9 Wing: That's correct.

10 Brown: And that was a temporary rule that the board or the
11 governor approved a temporary rule from the board --

12 Wing: That's correct.

13 Brown: -- the Electrical Board. Okay. All right. So yeah,
14 I just want to speak, uh, in favor of a, a 1:1 ratio.
15 Um, we were up in Sandpoint yesterday. We talked
16 about it. There was a question. But United States
17 Department of Labor they established a 1:1 ratio for
18 electricians, for apprentice training. So I, I think
19 they probably put some pretty good thought into that.
20 It's a, a training issue not -- and it's a life safety
21 issue. I think if you want to raise, uh, ratios, then
22 you're going to be taking away from safety and taking
23 away from training, and I think the motivation at that
24 point is more economics and I don't think we're
25 looking for economics it's my understanding.

1

2

So I would promote a 1:1 for the training aspect and

3

the safety aspect as well as matching up with

4

surrounding states, Washington and Oregon. You know,

5

I -- they might have some different ratios in some of

6

the different sub-classifications in those other

7

states, but I'm, I'm certain that their general

8

electrician, commercial, industrial electrical work is

9

a 1:1 requirement.

10 Wing: Okay. Appreciate your comments.

11 Brown: Thanks.

12 Wing: Anybody else?

13 Daniels: Sure. Uh, James Daniels. I'm a journeyman

14 electrician. And yeah, I just would like to give Ken

15 Brown on the 1:1 ratio is definitely the ideal ratio.

16 As a journeyman electrician, I don't personally feel

17 that I could safely and adequately train more than one

18 apprentice at a time. We all understand that you're

19 pulling wire. You might grab a couple of apprentices

20 that are on a job here or there to help you for five,

21 10 minutes. But if you're actually running around and

22 I had four apprentices on a jobsite and I'm the guy,

23 there's no way I can adequately and safely work that

24 job every day. I do not think that that's adequate.

25 Personally, um, I think 1:1 is the way to go for



1 safety.

2 Wing: Can I, can I ask you a question? It's kind of --

3 Daniels: Sure.

4 Wing: I'm just going to ask you to help me out on this. So
5 when we put a ratio back in that's higher than other
6 states -- and like I said, many states you look at
7 they have no ratio at all -- how do I answer this
8 question. Is the Idaho proposed rule a more stringent
9 requirement than the federal government or the
10 reviewed states? Describe the evidence base unique
11 circumstances that justifies the enhanced requirement.
12 How do I, how do I explain that?

13 Daniels: Well like I said, my opinion is the 1:1 and that's the
14 federal standard that's the minimal. I understand
15 that yeah there are probably states that have no
16 requirement. But, um, I think that it just shows that
17 Idaho should rise above, um, a lack of standards and
18 have a standard that sets the bar at that point. If
19 we were comparing it to somebody that has none, we
20 should set the bar for safety, not inadequacy.

21 Wing: Okay. Thank you.

22 Beierle: I'm Kyle Beierle. Uh, so Idaho has had a 2:1 ratio
23 for a period of the time 'til this rule change,
24 temporary rule change came into play. What was the
25 driving force to go from in the residential side from

1 two to four? Why did the state justify that? That's
2 my question to you.

3 Wing: We had labor shortage, demand probably. I can tell
4 you that it was industry demand and the legislature
5 did this. It was not a state --

6 Beierle: I realize that. I did talk to Chris Jenson when this
7 was coming on. But, uh, are we going to lower the,
8 uh, apprenticeship training to accommodate? Is it a
9 financial need that they need less wages there? Is it
10 -- was there a shortage of electricians causing that?
11 Did this help that since they put this into place?
12 Those are questions that we -- we've been playing with
13 this for a couple years now. Do you have any
14 statistics on how this has panned out?

15 Wing: And all those questions you asked are questions that,
16 you know, individuals in this room should be able to
17 answer.

18 Beierle: Yeah. Okay.

19 Wing: You know, has -- you know, your question, has it
20 helped the industry going to a 4:1 ratio? Is the
21 industry seeing a safety issue with the 4:1 ratio? I
22 mean these are all great questions that you guys can
23 ask and answer in the half an hour.

24 Beierle: Well just one more comment. So I'm the guy, I'm the
25 lineman, I'm the guy that plugs in the meter when the

1 facilities have been inspected. Uh, I'm the guy that
2 gets called out in the middle of a night on fire,
3 house fires, and, uh, I just asked the gentleman today
4 if we have any, uh, statistics on electrical fires,
5 and we don't have them here with us today. That's
6 data we'll have to, to get ahold of.

7
8 But, uh, I have one specific call that I did take. I
9 had three kids that were burned up in a house, 2:00 in
10 the morning and it was an electrical fire here in Post
11 Falls and that haunts me to this day. And by lowering
12 the bar I, I think it's a mistake. I think
13 apprentices that's where you learn. You have the
14 smaller ratio. You get better training with more one-
15 on-one. One-on-two, that's a little sketchy but 1:4
16 in a residential setting, uh, I, I don't think that's
17 acceptable.

18 Wing: You might have asked this, but quick question. So the
19 electrical fire that, that you responded to with the
20 three children, um, do you know if that was an
21 apprentices wiring issue or an end user wire that
22 caused --

23 Beierle: I didn't follow up to that degree. Uh, it was
24 determined that it was an electrical fire. I'm
25 assuming that it was an internal in the home. It was

1 -- you know, that's been probably six or seven years
2 ago. So but it's -- it does -- for me it haunts me
3 and I, and I don't think we sacrifice safety for, uh -
4 -

5 Wing: Appreciate your comments.

6 Beierle: Thank you.

7 Wing: Thanks.

8 Stenberg: Matt Stenberg again. The, uh, the question of
9 apprentice ratios, the only argument I've ever heard
10 for increasing apprentice ratios bases itself in
11 money. Labor shortage, okay. There was a housing
12 boom and yeah we could have used a lot more
13 electricians to wire all those many more houses. But
14 to lower our standards so that we can get four kids to
15 one journeyman in a job to do a substandard job of
16 wiring that house, that's a disservice to the building
17 industry as a whole to that homeowner that's going to
18 buy that house. When I'm looking at buying a house,
19 if I can see that that house was built during that
20 housing boom in '08, '07, '08, it's immediately off my
21 list as a possibility 'cause I know that corners were
22 cut. I know that that was during the housing boom and
23 standards were lax.

24
25 The only other argument has always been to lower the

1 aggregate, um, labor cost. That's again just in an
2 effort to increase your profit. Profit is not a
3 reason to sacrifice safety and the quality of
4 installation. The apprenticeship ratio should always
5 and only be 1:1. It's a safety measure, and it's also
6 a longevity measure of our building and our future in
7 the State of Idaho. If you want to be known as the
8 state where the houses burn down, then take a key from
9 -- or take cue from some of these other outfits that
10 have, uh, also taken shortcuts and ruined their own
11 reputation. Thank you.

12 Wing: Yes, sir.

13 Graham: Bruce Graham, Quality Heating, Air and Electric. Um,
14 we're all here to discuss safety, you know, basically.
15 But is there -- is a first year journeyman the same
16 quality as a second year journeyman? Is the second
17 year the same as a third? Is the third the same as
18 the fourth? By the time you get up to a fourth,
19 fourth year journeyman -- or apprentice, excuse me, by
20 the time you get up to a fourth year apprentice,
21 you're, you're looking at somebody that's really
22 getting close to just turning out on their own, right.
23 And can a fourth year apprentice kind of help guide
24 the first year apprentices?
25

1 You know, so when you're starting to talk, you know,
2 one-on -- I know one-on-one is the best scenario, but
3 when you're starting to talk one-on-one with a first
4 year versus one-on-one with a fourth year, you know,
5 it's a huge difference.

6
7 And so it's been discussed a little bit throughout the
8 state -- I've been following this throughout the state
9 -- and it's been discussed a little bit how about
10 changing these ratios according to whether they're
11 first year, second year, third year or fourth year
12 such as you can have four fourth years or, uh, there
13 was even brought up, uh, give them a designation of a,
14 a value, you know, and then you -- your combination
15 has to stay within that value. So you have, uh, four
16 or six four years or two three years and, and -- or
17 two four years or, or if you got one years, maybe you
18 only need -- should have two.

19
20 Okay. So changing that value as it progresses I think
21 isn't a bad idea. The fact of everything else with
22 all the licensing and everything, the tighter we get,
23 the less people pull permits. There's a short- --
24 it's a fact. There's a shortage of trades people out
25 here period, and the harder it is to get an

1 electrician the more people don't pull permits. And I
2 personally think that the end goal should be for more
3 permits, getting people more educated to where they
4 will pull permits, whether it's the homeowner, whether
5 it's a handyman, whether it's a whatever.

6
7 Um, yeah. I hate to see everybody and their dog out
8 there doing electrical work, but the fact is is
9 they're going to do it. And if we can get them to
10 pull permits, then all of a sudden the -- and get this
11 education out there to the public you've got to have
12 these permits because right now a handyman will say oh
13 we don't need a permit for that. You know, but if we
14 can get that education part out there, then that's
15 going to lend itself a lot to safety because right now
16 I'll bet you 30 percent of the work is unpermitted out
17 there, maybe more.

18 Wing: Thank you for your comments, sir.

19 Holstrom: Good morning. My name is Scott Holstrom. I'm the
20 business manager, secretary, treasurer of Labor Local
21 238 in Spokane, Washington. I represent, uh, the men
22 and women of Labor Local 238. They work in Eastern
23 Washington and Northern Idaho. Um, thank you for the
24 open forum.

25

1 Uh, we believe that apprenticeship and rigorous
2 licensing is the best path to a robust and resilient
3 middle class. All states including Idaho should
4 maintain the bar when it comes to apprenticeship and
5 the license trades. Apprenticeships have been proven
6 way for individuals to get the job training in a
7 controlled, safe environment. They also are
8 structured so people are on a livable wage and get pay
9 increases during their tenure, and on completion of a
10 registered apprenticeship program have no student
11 debt. The trades men and women in our local work
12 hand-in-hand with the electricians trades.

13
14 Uh, I believe in a 1:1 ratio, even on the job when our
15 laborers are out there our apprentices are required to
16 work with a journeyman construction craft laborer
17 under the supervision of an electrician. Um, it's all
18 about safety. Individual licensed journeymen are in
19 charge of the safety of the jobsite, the safety of my
20 members, their members, and the public in general.
21 Licensed trades men and women in apprenticeship ratios
22 are not a burden on contractors. They are vital,
23 necessity in building and maintaining the
24 infrastructure needs of Idaho.

25

1 When you talk about license tenure -- I don't want to
2 get out in the weeds, but I'm a licensed merchant
3 manager, right, with heavy ton and till. I'm required
4 to do things with the Coast Guard every five years,
5 drug test, research. Now anybody can go out on the
6 lake on a Saturday and drive a boat, but they're not
7 held to the standards that I am upheld to and those
8 badges on my sleeve I'm proud to wear them, right. I
9 have earned that right.

10
11 I also earn the right to be a journeyman construction
12 gravel laborer. I take pride in that. This is about
13 safety, the safety of the people on the jobsites and
14 the safety of the residents of Idaho. So that's where
15 we stand with it. I need to be made sure that when my
16 laborers are out there working with my electrical
17 contractors that they're under supervision with a
18 trained, licensed journeyman electrician and knows
19 what he's doing, he or she knows what they're doing.
20 So that's where I'm at.

21 Wing: Thank you.

22 Holstrom: Thank you.

23 Franssen: Hunter Franssen again. Speaking on the apprentice to
24 journeyman ratio, I've always been a fan of 1:1. I
25 think it's the best training, produces the best

1 electricians, and it produces craftsmen and not
2 laborers. And I think that's what Idaho needs to go
3 back to instead of worrying about the profits of the
4 housing market and everything now.

5
6 Uh, when it comes to we were asking about statistics
7 and everything with electrical fires we don't know
8 anything with the apprentice ratio going up, but one
9 statistic that I do have, uh, comes from Idaho Board
10 video conference meeting on Wednesday, April 28th, uh,
11 2021. Uh, basically states that the pass level for
12 journeyman electrician now as of this year has been
13 reduced to 48 percent whereas the previous average was
14 78 percent. I think there's a direct correlation with
15 the lack of training, potentially some schooling. I
16 mean a lot of guys are there just because they have to
17 be, not because they care about the trade or want to
18 learn.

19
20 But I've been through the schooling and everything,
21 and I know that the vast majority of what you learn is
22 on the jobsites. Just like in any trade, what's said
23 in the codebook and what's performed out in the field
24 is not and never correlates, uh, correctly. You get
25 people in that are untrained on how things have been



1 done, how they're supposed to have been done or how,
2 you know, different eras of the electrical industry
3 was done. It's just lends itself to people getting
4 hurt, electrical fires, and, uh, all sorts of issues
5 like that.

6
7 Um, I am pro 1:1 journeyman to apprentice; however, I
8 do understand from the standpoint of a fourth year or
9 third year apprentice definitely has a little bit more
10 knowledge, uh, significantly more knowledge than a
11 first or second year. Um, so I do believe that a 2:1
12 is not a terrible, um, option, 4:1 or zero ratio is
13 absolutely a terrible option. It's going to lead to
14 unskilled workers, um, lack of value in the trades,
15 uh, realistically electrocution hazards, fire hazards,
16 life safety issues, like that.

17
18 Um, another thing that I see a big issue with is other
19 states have already threatened that Idaho with a zero
20 ratio pulling license reciprocity. We happen to be a
21 federally recognized training company, um, and we do
22 our apprentices on a 2:1 or 1:1 ratio depending on
23 what's required, um, or what has been required.

24
25 I think a lot of these other guys say the problem with

1 Idaho right now is that they're talking about the
2 schooling and the training, the hours not accruing,
3 uh, going towards other states like Washington which
4 is just a hop over the border, Oregon, anywhere like
5 that, um, unless you have that federal recognition or
6 your schooling is recognized at these different, um,
7 states. I think that all the trades are important and
8 should require training and consistency. I'm biased
9 of course for the electrical industry. I see a lot
10 more fire hazards, life safety issues and everything
11 that are a huge issue, uh, when it comes to the
12 training.

13
14 You have all these guys that -- I went to school with
15 guys who one guy literally bent pipe for four years
16 straight, didn't even know how to size conduits for
17 wire poles, voltage drop calculations, anything like
18 that let alone other basic stuff. I also went to
19 school with guys who drilled holes, banged boxes, and
20 ran wire their entire four-year apprenticeship, and
21 you're telling me that these guys passed their
22 journeyman test which I would like to add is an open
23 book test. It's not like it's horrifically difficult
24 if you know your way around the code which is what
25 being a journeyman electrician is based on.



1

2

But these guys who had done these minimal activities throughout their apprenticeship are supposed to be trusted to go work in say some 480 volt switchgear or understand how, you know, isolation switches for generators and everything work or troubleshoot motor control centers at a sawmill or something like that.

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18 Wing:

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I just think it's a huge life safety issue keeping these, uh, ratios the way that they are. You can't even keep your eye on four guys on the jobsite throughout the day let alone two is hard enough. Um, my main concern is just for safety of the field workers and the recipients of the service. Uh, my secondary concern is to keep the value in the trades and produce true craftsmen, not laborers, unskilled laborers.

I want to ask you a question. I kind of -- and I wanted to ask this question generally to everybody. So there's been a lot of, you know, a lot of comments about 1:1 ratio is the best, and I don't disagree with that. I mean you're training apprentice 100 percent, right.

But do you -- does anyone -- and this is open for



1 anyone because I need this information. Do you have
2 or can anyone give me some information that shows that
3 the states that don't have any ratios or having
4 expanded ratios or higher ratios have like a higher
5 fire rating or a higher, you know, safety rating or
6 insurance ratings are higher in certain states where
7 the ratios are higher? Is there, is there anything --
8 is there anyone out there that can bring me
9 information like that as kind of a comparative between
10 what we're saying a 1:1 where in comparison there's
11 places -- you know, we're doing a 4:1 right now. Did
12 that cause more fires?

13

14 You know, Arizona has got no ratio at all. It's up to
15 the contractor. Is their, is their, um, incidents of
16 fires or injuries higher than what ours is? That's,
17 that's kind of what we're looking for here that we've
18 got to gather.

19 Franssen: I don't have any specific information on that;
20 however, I will say without fire statistics
21 specifically being traced back to electrical, I think
22 the journeyman pass ratio dropping 30 percent, you
23 know, over a year, uh, speaks to what we can probably
24 expect to see over the next couple of years with that.

25 Bird: So I have a (inaudible - 01:14:11) other people answer

1 Warren's question.

2 Franssen: Mm-Hmm.

3 Bird: Um, you sound knowledgeable about the correlation
4 between the exam and the pass rate and the ratio.
5 Have you been following that just recently and
6 followed it other states?

7 Franssen: I have not followed it in other states, just Idaho,
8 um, recently because I like statistics and things
9 speak for themselves. The numbers don't lie. So
10 that's why I came up with a few of those statistics
11 for this.

12 Wing: And I --

13 Bird: Thank you.

14 Wing: -- I can speak towards that exam.

15 Bird: Okay.

16 Wing: So the exam if you know -- sorry. Thank you, sir.
17 Appreciate it. The exam, the board did change the
18 exam, um, January 1st and they weighted the
19 calculations. So we actually had apprentices come to
20 us and say I can, I can miss, you know, 30 percent of
21 the calculations on the exam and still pass, and we're
22 like yes you could the way the exams were set up
23 prior. So the board changed that January 1st and now
24 the, the, the exam questions -- you can't miss the
25 exam questions. You have to be able to pass them or

1 you're not going to pass the journeyman exam. So
2 that's part of the number you're seeing there.

3 Franssen: Gotcha.

4 Wing: Do you have a question or anything come out up here?

5 Wideman: Mark Wideman, journeyman electrician, State of Idaho.
6 Um, so I guess we're faced with, um, a problem with
7 unpermitted dangerous electrical work going on, right.
8 So heard something like 30 percent or something like
9 that floating around about. Um, so we're trying to
10 cover that gap at the same time protect the
11 electrician and, and, and the apprentice and whatnot.
12 The 1:1 ratio is great. It's ideal obviously. Um,
13 1:2, you know, given the different, um, levels of, of
14 knowledge of the, of the apprentice between one and
15 four, you know, I could see that work. One-to-four
16 just doesn't even -- I can't even, I can't even
17 entertain that one. It's just not even a ballpark
18 acceptable.

19
20 Um, now I want to go back to, you know, that whole 30
21 percent or all these, these, these -- this -- we're
22 trying to get work permitted, right. So and I, and I
23 -- what if like the journeyman electrician had X
24 amount of experience, say 10 years, whatever, eight
25 years as an -- and, and he wanted to do, um, contract

1 work and houses in order to cover some of that, um,
2 uninspected, that, that gray area that we know that's
3 dangerous and, and whatnot. And you know, I'm not a
4 regulation. I don't like regulation. I don't like
5 adding stuff. But if there's a way that we can find a
6 way to, to cover that without, you know, um, hurting
7 the industry, you know, um.

8
9 So I was just -- that idea came to me that perhaps a
10 qualified journeyman electrician that, you know, it's
11 not a master electrician, not capable of, of maybe
12 doing large, you know, commercial jobs or, you know,
13 buildings or industrial whatnot but very capable of
14 handling, you know, houses and some apartments and
15 something like that, maybe they could pull a permit
16 or, or go to those homeowners that would like to have
17 somebody that could, uh, come in and do something,
18 maybe open up the, the trade a little bit more for
19 contractors to be able to cover some of that stuff.

20
21 So I have no interest in being a contractor, so it's
22 not -- I'm not peddling this for me. Trust me. I go
23 home at night and I don't think of work and that's
24 just how I like it. So just throwing that out there.

25 Wing: I appreciate your comments.

1 Risley: Um, Tena Risley with the Northwest HVAC. Just a
2 question first on statistics. Do you have a rough
3 estimate of how many registered apprentices there are
4 right now to license journeymen? So I'm assuming it's
5 an overwhelming difference. I think Washington State
6 is 22,000 electrical trainees and I don't have the
7 current statistics on journeymen.

8 Wing: Uh, I don't have the most up-to-date statistics, but
9 I, I think right now we have like 6,100 apprentices
10 and, um, I think we have more journeymen than
11 apprentices. I think we have a total of 16,000
12 licensees and that covers electrical contractors,
13 limited electrical contractors, registered
14 apprentices, journeymen, and just all of our licenses.

15 Risley: So there is, there is more, um, ratio -- just I want
16 to make sure on behalf of new apprentices coming in if
17 the ratio does go up 1:1 just to make sure -- and
18 again, I don't have the statistics -- there is enough
19 journeymen in the field to do a 1:1 to commercial to
20 commercial to residential because it would be a
21 drastic change just making sure that there's enough
22 journeymen to supervise out there if they do this
23 change, you know, within this next year.

24 Wing: We have no idea how many are actually working in the
25 field.

1 Risley: Okay. All right. Thank you.

2 Vogel: Uh, Kevin Vogel. We're focused here on journeymen
3 ratio. I'd like to address the journeyman quality
4 issue. I can tell you from my own experience when I
5 was an apprentice at lunchtime we would all sit and
6 look at the code and talk code. I had a journeyman
7 that was convinced and tried to convince us that on an
8 Edison circuit, a (inaudible - 01:20:23) circuit that
9 the two-phase, single phase three wire, that the two-
10 phase, uh, conductors off of circuit breakers had to
11 be on the same phase. I could not convince that he
12 was wrong.

13

14 So as a suggestion, I would ask you who are owners of
15 companies or in supervisory capacities to spend some
16 time maybe weekly, once a week maybe talking to your
17 journeymen, finding out what kind of questions that
18 they're being asked by the apprentices so that you can
19 get a handle on the subject. I don't have any
20 questions on that but that's just a little bit of --

21 Wing: Thank you, sir.

22 Baker: Nathan Baker. Um, so I, I was trained in 1:2 ratio
23 residential, 1:1 in commercial. Um, maybe I'm unique.
24 I feel like I can absolutely supervise as well as
25 train two apprentices on a simplistic residential

1 structure. Now not all 1:2 -- single family dwellings
2 are simplistic. There are very, very large homes that
3 I work on that I can't make that statement. There's a
4 lot of very intricate work goes on there.

5
6 And I know how I would build a crew if I had to staff
7 four trainees with one journeyman. I know what I
8 would do. I would try to get a fourth year and
9 probably like two third years, maybe one first year or
10 two two years, you know. I mean this is what I would
11 do. The guys who want to benefit from 4:1 ratio are
12 the guys that are going to be doing 6:1 ratio until
13 Gary comes up and then they're running in the bushes,
14 you know. They're the guys that are going to operate
15 out of ratio anyway, you know.

16
17 But I think to, to not allow for 2:1 ratio on
18 residential in Idaho, which we did successfully for a
19 very long time I think, I don't remember housing
20 burning down everywhere. It happens and it's
21 horrific. But 1:2 ratio for residential is what I
22 think is, is a good idea. I don't -- my company I
23 don't think I need 1:4 ratio, but when we return back
24 to normal hopefully I think 1:2 should be where we
25 return to and 1:1 commercial is what we should return

1 to.

2

3 But if we talk about -- you guys were tasked with
4 making rules more simplistic. If we're like well you
5 can do a ratio of this with a fourth year of this with
6 a third year this with a that and now we've got more
7 placards like we do in Washington which I hate and
8 Gary has to try and go on the jobsite and figure out
9 how many fourth years. He's got to line everybody up
10 and, you know, his guys and they got enough places to
11 go and things to enforce already. I'm sure it's the
12 same down south. You know, so if we try to figure out
13 all of these, you know, this thing you're going to
14 need an abacas and a slide rule to figure out if your
15 guys are okay and in ratio or not, you know.

16

17 So I think it's pretty simple for me. A return to 1:2
18 residential, return 1:1 for -- and the time that I've
19 serviced as an electrician and the time that my father
20 serviced as an electrician before that it seemed to
21 work, and I think we can return to what worked before
22 and can work again I believe.

23 Wing: Okay. Can I just follow-up question?

24 Baker: Sure.

25 Wing: So how, how did I address the idea of going back from

1 a 4:1 to a 2:1 with the contractors that were hearing
2 across the state they're saying the exact opposite
3 where they're saying, you know, I didn't think it
4 would work at a 2:1 and now I -- because we hear
5 almost word-for-word, you know, I was a proponent of
6 going 4:1 because I didn't see how we can do it other
7 than 2:1 but now I've been doing 4:1 and it's actually
8 working out and it's working out fine for me. So if
9 you're proposing going back to the 2:1, how, how would
10 you address that?

11 Baker: Now I do believe that you can supervise two
12 electricians on that. I think that going to 4:1 and,
13 and if they're -- if you have people who are saying,
14 hey man, that's awesome, let's say here forever, I
15 would address it by saying to them this was a
16 temporary measure, and I think everybody knew that
17 going in, you know. I'm not sure how everything went
18 down down south, but I think people came in and they
19 went we need 4:1 and they went all right, fine, you
20 can have 4:1. Now just like something, hey, be
21 grateful you got away with it for four years. You
22 don't get to get away with it forever. That's -- you
23 know, we're going back to what we've always done which
24 is 2:1, and I don't think you can properly do work
25 4:1. That I don't believe you can do.

1 Wing: But again, you know, for everybody here, you know, is
2 there, is there any visible safety concerns you're
3 seeing with going from where we've gone to a 4:1 the
4 last couple of years that I can --

5 Baker: The down- -- the downside is you don't get to see the
6 cracks in the plaster 'til it's been there for a
7 while. We don't, we don't get to know the
8 ramifications of under supervised workers until later,
9 you know. That's, that's the unfortunate thing with,
10 with electrical work in general. Things don't start
11 burning up until they've been put together for a while
12 loosely, you know. So we -- maybe we'll see the, the
13 actual things but, you know, we -- there's no way to
14 quantify bad work just like the thing. I mean we can
15 go all nuts and, and do all pipe and wire like Chicago
16 does because they're really afraid of fires there, you
17 know. But I think we, we return to what worked
18 before, and we get back there again. I was under the
19 understanding this was a temporary measure. That was
20 always my understanding, the 1:4 was.

21 Wing: Okay. Appreciate your comments. We'll do two more
22 and then we got to wrap up.

23 Wideman: Mark Wideman, um, journeyman electrician. To address
24 that, the 4:1 ratio, in order to get rid of it, right,
25 which is I think the desired approach, um, would be

1 literally to get the young, hard-charging, you know,
2 journeymen electrician, let them do some residential,
3 commercial work and, uh, hopefully cover that gap of
4 the, um, of the -- all those unlic- -- all that work
5 that's not being supervised or the questionable work.
6 You just -- you know, you're just going to have more
7 contractors, more competition is good, you know. So
8 that's, that's how you could do it.

9
10 Literally you got a masters, you can do commercial,
11 industrial, large projects, buildings, whatnot, and
12 you have a journeymen maybe, you know, you want to go
13 out there and start dabbling in, in, in, uh, in, uh,
14 contracting, you know, aspect of the trade. Then, you
15 know, allow them to go in there with their maximum 2:1
16 ratio and, uh, and do that. I think that's the way to
17 address that 4:1. I know it's a money thing and I'm
18 sure it's --

19 Wing: So do you mind if I ask you a follow-up question?

20 Wideman: Of course not.

21 Wing: So as we were looking at this -- and this is open for
22 everybody. And only two were going to -- two more
23 people were going to come up, but if someone does come
24 up with something, I would like you to, you know,
25 email it to me or get it to me somehow. But so what

1 measures should we look at these other states that
2 have long histories of not having any ratios? I mean,
3 I mean I know, I know fires. Is there any other type
4 of measuring, you know, that some way we can, we can
5 weigh this and we can quantify this to other states
6 that have long histories of no ratios? I mean short,
7 short of, you know, what's the, uh, number of fires
8 they have per capita. Is there any other things that
9 we need to --

10 Wideman: The question again? Now --

11 Wing: So with states that have long histories of not having
12 a ratio, I know we can do it on like --

13 Wideman: Sure.

14 Wing: -- fires per capita, right?

15 Wideman: Right.

16 Wing: What other measurable --

17 Wideman: Is that, is that discussed here about not having any
18 ratio?

19 Wing: Everything is being discussed here.

20 Wideman: Yeah. Well you know, um, I guess we -- I guess, I
21 guess we're supposed to come with the, with the, with
22 the -- with all the statistics for fires for different
23 states and stuff. I wasn't -- you know, I didn't know
24 if you guys --

25 Wing: I'm not asking you to come up with the statistics.

1 Wideman: I know.

2 Wing: I'm asking you what else can we look at besides just -
3 - you know, we know we can look at fires per capita.

4 Wideman: Right.

5 Wing: But what other measures are there that you would
6 suggest that we look at?

7 Wideman: For the ratio? For, for having --

8 Wing: In the other states that have long histories of not
9 having a ratio.

10 Wideman: Yeah.

11 Wing: I know we can go in and look at -- we can go in and
12 look at, you know, what's the fire per capita, but
13 what other measures are there that we should be
14 looking at in those other cities?

15 Wideman: I don't even thing we should even be looking at states
16 that don't have a ratio.

17 Wing: Okay.

18 Wideman: I don't think that's -- I think, I think we don't need
19 to be the head of the spear, but we don't have to go
20 backwards either so because what I appreciate about
21 here is that we allow the code to kind of play itself
22 out for a little while to find out where the real bugs
23 are and we don't jump into it, you know, like some
24 other states do. And to come to find out there's been
25 a big problem with the new -- something in the code.

1 They take their -- you know, the State of Idaho takes
2 their time a little bit, you know, looks at it and
3 says, you know, this is appropriate and this is just
4 overkill and whatnot, so.

5 Wing: Okay. I appreciate it.

6 Licea: Hello, everyone. My name is Luis Licea, the
7 friendship coordinator for Northwest Laborers. And
8 I'm here to speak on behalf of a friendship
9 coordinator. There's a lot of things going on we've
10 been discussing, you know, fires and people dying in
11 dwellings is great. But from a standpoint view of a
12 coordinator, what about the injustice that we're doing
13 to the actual participant going to the trades and
14 they're going to become on-the-job training
15 electrician when those individuals are there and they
16 get to work -- we heard it right now -- four years
17 bending conduit. That's going to be your same
18 journeyman that's going to be later on doing the same
19 stuff here in Idaho, right. So we got to keep their
20 standards 2:1 max, 1:1 is ideal as a friendship
21 coordinator.

22
23 I'm not a certified trade. I'm a construction
24 (inaudible - 01:30:33) laborer by trade and the one
25 time in my career as an apprentice I was drilling and

1 blasting, and I was left alone hanging from a mound
2 high scaling, drilling into the hole so we can put
3 powder in there. Had no idea what I was doing. I was
4 22 years old. I wanted to have a journeyman with me
5 in those incidents. I can only imagine if there was
6 somebody wiring something just last -- we were having
7 the discussion here earlier with you guys and I didn't
8 want to come up here because it was not the topic for
9 me to bring it up.

10
11 But in Tri Cities, Washington State, I have a house
12 that I'm remodeling. I brought a guy over yesterday,
13 and I'm not an electrician and I'm not sure what a hot
14 box is. And he told me what it was. I guess flipping
15 the wires they're live for your panel and having long
16 tail so you can put them back in there and do all the
17 rewiring but where the whole thing is energized. At
18 that point I said you can't do this. And he had an
19 apprentice that was there teaching him that stuff, so
20 he was teaching that apprentice doing that stuff.

21
22 So it's critical that if you want to see in a decade
23 from now, 10 years from now construction trades
24 people, journeymen electricians wire homes here in
25 Idaho we want to make sure these individuals are on-



1 the-job trained by a journeyman and do not exceed 2:1,
2 1:1 ratios. That's my comment.

3 Wing: Appreciate your comment. And the last, last comment.

4 Baker: Jason Baker. I'm a journeyman electrician. Uh, I'm a
5 contractor. Uh, for the ratio, uh, I've been a
6 journeyman for 26 years and the ratio up until the 4:1
7 was 2:1 I believe all the time. And, uh, I don't
8 think we had many problems in the state with safety
9 when it was 2:1. Now I don't historically know if
10 it's been moved to 4:1 and hasn't been in place that
11 long. So I believe that the 2:1 is fine if we go back
12 to that. I'm not a, a fan of the 4:1. I believe that
13 was put into place because of construction demand and
14 ultimately money because most pass it back to money.

15
16 Um, one other thing I wanted to say I didn't get to
17 come up here for the handyman. I think that the
18 handyman category is not a good one. I do know that
19 if you were probably look in the Nickel's Worth today
20 or ads on Craigslist or something that a lot of
21 handyman ads do offer electrical service and they are
22 definitely not electricians. Um, other than that, uh,
23 and I want to say on the homeowner permits, I think
24 homeowners should be able to pull their own permits.
25 And that's all I've got. Thanks.

1 Wing: Okay. Thank you. All right, folks. Once again, I
2 really appreciate your comments and your feedback. If
3 you, if you are able to come up with any other ideas
4 about other, you know, measures that we can look at,
5 you know, other ways we can quantify this stuff, send
6 it to me. You can -- my email address is at
7 dbs.idaho.gov. You can find me on the electrical
8 program page. Anything that you help -- anything that
9 you think would help, you know, develop -- to develop
10 this conversation and, and make decisions as we start
11 to put all this together, we do need that.

12
13 You got to understand like the gentleman was saying.
14 You know, we're under the governor's mandate and as
15 DOPL we're going to look at this stuff and, you know,
16 we, we have to be able to quantify this and we have to
17 be able to answer these questions that are being asked
18 of us. So and that's all I got. Have a, have a good
19 day. Thanks for coming.

20

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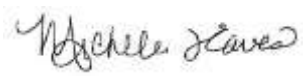
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