



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

A.F.L. – C.I.O. – C.F.L.

Local Union No. 307

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Rodney E. Rice – Business Manager

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George A. Koontz - President

To: House Economics Matters Committee

From: International Brotherhood of Electricals Workers L.U. 307

Subject: House Bill 163

Date: February 4th 2020

Position: strongly Oppose House Bill 163

Dear Honorable Derick Davis, and members of the House Economics Matters Committee,

Thank you for reviewing my testimony. I am a 27 year union member and also the Business Manager of the IBEW local 307. I represent Allegany, Garrett, and Washington county. I strongly oppose the "Right to Work" HB 163. The members of the Electrical union and also the building trades often work for multiple employers throughout the year and also there carriers do to the nature of the construction business. Being able to work under a collective Bargain agreement allows us to be able to contribute to a health insurance plan and a retirement plan on a continual basis. This allows our families to have health insurance coverage and also build a retirement so when we do retire we are allowed healthcare and a pension fund.

The "Right to Work" HB 163 will cripple the ability for us to keep the ability to collectively bargain. And provide these benefits for our families.

There has been no proven fact that "Right to Work" improves the economy. But the states that are right to work make lower wages, have fewer people covered in health insurance and even have a higher rate of bankruptcy for cases for the home owners.

The members and I strongly oppose HB 163 and will not support anyone that does support the "Right to Work" HB 163.

Thank you,

Rodney E Rice
Business Manager
IBEW L.U. 307