



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

JOSEPH F. DABBS: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 339 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE-DISQUALIFICATION-STOPPAGE OF WORK CAUSED BY LABOR DISPUTE

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the House Economic Matters Committee. Please join me in enthusiastic **support of HB 339**. A bill designed to protect hard-working Marylanders caught up in a labor dispute, whether the work stoppage is caused by management, labor, or both.

As you can see by this letterhead and for those who know me as a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26, I am union through and through. I would like to make you aware that IBEW 26 has a **no strike/no lockout** clause in our contract. Different from many unions, IBEW 26 and our Contractors believe that a work stoppage of any kind, is not beneficial to either side. History, will show that both parties have prospered from this clause. However, outside the construction industry, work stoppages happen, and quite often, individual members are caught up in this war of leverage. Like any loss of employment, and like any insurance program, sometimes individuals deserve to receive the benefits that they pay into. Being a part of collective bargaining should not disqualify a person from receiving benefits.

Remember, this bill does not apply to me or the 11,000 members I represent, I am just looking to help others. I simply ask you to allow members that participate in the collective bargaining process, to receive benefits that are allowed to every other working person, during a work stoppage. Please **support HB 339** and support the Maryland worker. Thank you

