



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 614 PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE DAMPERS, SMOKE DAMPERS, COMBO DAMPERS & SMOKE CONTROL SYSTEMS February 21, 2023

TO: Sen. Brian Feldman, Chair and members of the Education, Energy & Environment Committee  
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Committee, I respectfully ask for your **support of SB 614**. This Public Safety bill is something we can all agree on. The inspection and professional testing of fire dampers, smoke dampers and smoke control dampers will keep our public buildings as safe as possible.

This work is handled by Duct and Sheet Metal workers. As a fellow tradesman and electrician, I know that there is a sense of pride that we take when installing and testing “life safety” systems. Knowing that our work can save lives, is tremendously rewarding to craftspeople. Although, this is not electric work, these dampers are the first line of defense in fire protection. When a properly installed and tested damper denotes smoke or flames, it sends a signal to electrical systems such as fire alarm and fire pumps. It’s this combination of detecting, warning and fighting the flames that saves lives.

I ask that you support the idea of maximum testing of these “life safety” measures and join with the industry, the National Fire Protection Association and Local Fire Marshalls in **support of SB 614**. Thank you

