



**INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS®**

900 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202.833.7000  
www.ibew.org

**KENNETH W. COOPER**  
International President

**PAUL A. NOBLE**  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer

July 10, 2023

**VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL**

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**Re: IBEW Support for Wisconsin Electric Power's Grid Resiliency  
and Innovation Partnerships Project (GRIP) (DE-FOA-0002740)**

Dear Secretary Granholm:

On behalf of the approximately 820,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to express my support for Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO)'s application for the BIL-Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) (DE-FOA-0002740) Holistic Vegetation Management Project. As proposed, IBEW Local Union 2150 will partner with the utility in training opportunities and skill assessment to support this endeavor, continuing the IBEW's mutually beneficial relationship with the company to ensure the project's success.

IBEW Local Union 2150 has represented the workers at WEPCO since 1964, evolving into a relationship of mutual respect that prioritizes working together to find solutions to obstacles that inevitably arise. This long-term relationship is built on the universal recognition that industry and labor can get far more done working together.

IBEW members play a vital role in the future economic prosperity of their communities. Indeed, the highly skilled workforce is key to economic development supported by good, union jobs in cities and small towns across the country. Notably, labor and its industry partners have come together over the past two-and-a-half years to advocate for policies that will have an immediate and long-lasting benefit for the utility industry, IBEW members and the communities they serve.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's once-in-a-generation investment in the nation's physical infrastructure includes billions of dollars towards core sectors that impact the utility industry, including electrical transmission, power generation, transportation and broadband. IBEW members want to ensure these programs' implementation will support members and fulfill President Biden's promise of creating good-paying, middle-class union jobs.



**INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS®**

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm  
July 10, 2023  
Page 2

Accordingly, the IBEW is solidly behind the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's GRIP efforts, which will prevent outages and enhance the resilience of the electric grid, deploy technologies to enhance grid flexibility, and demonstrate innovative approaches to power sector infrastructure resilience and reliability. The IBEW welcomes the opportunity to work with WEPCO on this project, which will contribute favorably to job creation and retention of 222 IBEW members and provide additional opportunities for family-supporting jobs. The grant would also support over 3,100 indirect jobs. The economies of the cities and towns touched by this project are likely to see increasing economic growth, which is particularly welcome in rural and economically stressed areas.

Additionally, this enhanced grid project will strengthen WEPCO's business by delivering more reliable electricity, which is another growth opportunity for the region. Members of the IBEW who are employed by the utility will benefit by ensuring a more secure future of employment.

As federal officials weigh the importance of directing infrastructure dollars for the greatest benefit, this proposed WEPCO GRIP project provides opportunities not only to IBEW members but their employers and communities. I look forward to working with the Department of Energy and the Biden Administration in the pursuit of a safer, more reliable, resilient grid.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Cooper", is positioned above the typed name.

Kenneth W. Cooper  
International President

KWC:mea

