



**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

May 15, 2025

VIA EMAIL

To: All Members of Congress

Re: IBEW Opposition to Legislation Abolishing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of 860,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to oppose H.R. 86, the NOSHA Act, introduced by Congressman Andy Biggs, which would repeal the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

This proposed legislation would effectively abolish the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) by dismantling the federal agency responsible for ensuring safe and healthy workplaces, setting and enforcing standards, and providing safety training. For over 50 years, OSHA has reduced workplace fatalities by nearly 63 percent and injuries by 40 percent. Simply put, gutting the responsibilities of this agency will inevitably make workers less safe.

The IBEW is the largest energy union in the world, representing members in the United States, U.S. territories, and Canada. As plant operators, foremen, field technicians, equipment operators, mechanics, and substation technicians, IBEW members are on the front lines of the energy industry in the most inherently dangerous workplaces in the construction and utility sectors. Thanks to the Occupational Safety and Health Act, workers today have a right to refuse excessively dangerous work. Removing OSHA could eliminate this protection, disrupt the union's ability to file unfair or dangerous labor practices at the NLRB, and leave workers vulnerable to retaliation for whistleblowing.

That is why the IBEW has long collaborated with employers and OSHA to ensure proper standards are followed, particularly for high voltage electricity and other electrical jobsite hazards. The IBEW:

- Partners with OSHA to develop and implement safety initiatives for electrical workers, including training programs and best practices
- Advocates for strong OSHA regulations for electrical safety and incorporates OSHA standards and industry best practices into its safety training
- Encourages members to report safety concerns to ensure proper investigation and corrective action

The bill's sponsor argues that states and private employers should regulate job safety themselves. But these entities will have different standards and no worker deserves to experience heightened, arbitrary risks based on their place of residence or employer. Without federal oversight, companies may prioritize profit over worker safety, leading to more accidents, illnesses, and fatalities. It is important to note that OSHA also protects



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companies by helping them develop safer ways to operate and save money on workers' compensation in the long run with OSHA inspections.

Any discussion about abolishing OSHA must mention that Elon Musk-connected facilities are under investigation by OSHA. At a Tesla factory in Austin, Texas, OSHA investigators cited the company multiple times for exposing workers to dangerous conditions before a worker died there last summer. In fact, Tesla has been charged with more than 50 violations since 2014, outpacing every other domestic carmaker in OSHA violations.¹ Elon Musk is a cautionary tale that clearly demonstrates the need for OSHA and its enforcement authority to confront repeat violators.

Lastly, the explosion of AI and data centers has increased the demand for power, intensifying the necessity for modernizing and expanding the electric grid, and fueling the country's need for new generation and transmission capacity. Construction projects for nuclear and fossil fuel plants, new networks of high voltage cables, and electrical substation and distribution integration require not only a well-trained workforce, but rules and laws to safeguard them.

The IBEW was formed in 1891 in large part to protect members on the job. That mission has not changed. Neither has the need for it. I hope you recognize OSHA's critical importance to the American worker and join IBEW members in opposing H.R. 86.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kenneth W. Cooper".

Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

KWC:mbs

¹ [Worker Safety: Arizona Congressman Set To Abolish OSHA](#), Forconstructionpros.com, 2/3/25