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**A Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' Economic Policy Subcommittee Field Hearing Entitled "The Economic Impact of Federal Investments in Massachusetts."**

**Date: October 20, 2023**

**Time: 3:00 PM**

**Location: Lowell, Massachusetts**

**Witness Testimony**

Thank you, Senator Warren and Senator Markey. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to discuss the incredible work IBEW members do, and the opportunities that new federal infrastructure and clean energy funding has created for our members here in Massachusetts.

Thanks to the hard work of our federal delegation, billions of dollars in federal infrastructure and clean energy funding have poured into Massachusetts. And our members are already hard at work helping businesses, homeowners, and school districts in communities across the Commonwealth use that funding to develop and adapt the clean energy technology of the future.

- This year, the Boston Public Schools rolled out the first 20 of a fleet of electric buses that will number 700 by 2030. Those buses were made possible by \$7 million in federal funds, and by the hard work of our Local 103 members who worked with the school district to design and install the infrastructure they need to electrify their bus fleet.
- Speaking of buses, the MBTA is also making progress on that front. With the help of IBEW members and federal infrastructure dollars, we're standing up a new bus facility in Quincy – and by 2026, it'll be ready to host the MBTA's new electric bus fleet.
- Our members have helped residential buildings add electric vehicle charging systems into their parking infrastructure so residents can switch to electric vehicles without missing a beat.
- It's not just electric vehicles either – IBEW members have worked on solar module installation projects across the Commonwealth. And as EPA Solar for All grants start coming to communities in Massachusetts (thanks in part to Senator Warren's advocacy), we'll be ready to help homeowners take a big step towards zero emissions.

As federal dollars continue to flow in and kickstart more and more projects, IBEW is going to be right at the heart of it. We're doing our part to ensure the electrical workforce we need is ready to hit the ground running. We've seen our membership grow by almost 2,500 in the past few years,

and we plan to double that growth over the next five years so we can be prepared to meet the Commonwealth's clean energy goals. And we've made substantial and strategic investments in workforce development—to the tune of more than \$10 million—to create the talent pipelines we need to meet demand.

A key piece of our plan to do that is expanding and diversifying the electrical workforce. I'm proud to share that in our most recent apprenticeship class, more than 50 percent of participants were women and people of color. This was our most diverse apprenticeship class ever, and we plan to keep building on that progress. Our membership should reflect the diversity of our community and of the places where we do our work. This is critical for two reasons – it shows the world we're paying attention and we know where the future is headed. And even more importantly, it shows young women, people of color, and other folks who haven't traditionally seen themselves in electrical work, that these are good, union jobs with great pay and benefits, and that these jobs are here to stay. Thanks to the work of our administration and our elected officials, we're seeing unprecedented investments creating new and unique opportunities for IBEW members. We're committed to making sure everyone in the Commonwealth – families, businesses, local governments, and workers – reaps the benefits.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here today. I look forward to discussing further how important federal investments in infrastructure and clean energy are, have been, and will be good for Massachusetts, and good for its union workers.