



**INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
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**LONNIE R. STEPHENSON**  
International President

**KENNETH W. COOPER**  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer

July 13, 2017

To: All Members of the United States House of Representatives

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in strong opposition to Amendment 111 to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018. This amendment seeks to make drastic changes to the prevailing wage survey methodology by replacing the Department of Labor's Davis-Bacon Surveys with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) surveys.

The Department of Labor's Davis-Bacon survey creates a level field for contractors that is proven to produce more local hiring, more middle class jobs, and higher quality workmanship on federally funded construction projects at reasonable cost to taxpayers. Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) surveys would produce massive cuts in income for hundreds of thousands of blue-collar workers in the construction field.

Finally, changing the Davis-Bacon survey would betray the intent of the Davis-Bacon Act, which is to encourage more local hiring by reflecting local market standards. The Gosar Amendment is a direct assault on the ability of blue-collar construction workers to make a decent living by applying their craft in their own communities. Therefore, I strongly urge you to vote NO to Amendment 111.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson  
International President

LRS:lgd

