

CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL



April 5, 2023

Assemblymember Marc Berman
State Capitol, Suite 6130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 735 Workforce Development: Utility Careers

POSITION: SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

The California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) has taken a *support if amended* position on your AB 735. The requested amendment would include further detail within Section 14005(s) item (5) of the proposed legislation. Currently, this provision only states that the High Roads Training partnerships include “(5) Safe and healthy working conditions.”

The requested amendment is to include a clause on safety training requirements for young workers that would greatly benefit them as they pursue careers. Young, inexperienced workers are at a higher risk of being injured on the job compared to older experienced workers. An introduction to workplace safety issues as they are being prepared to enter the workforce would provide a foundation for understanding their right to safe and healthy working conditions.

Specifically, such training should include:

- Information about the California work permit program for young workers;
- Employee rights and employer responsibilities with respect to workplace health and safety; and

- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Youth@Work—Talking Safety curriculum, which teaches essential knowledge and skills to help keep young people safe and healthy at work through key concepts and activities.

The CIHC Board members review, monitor and comment on legislation which may impact the occupational environmental health and safety (OEHS) profession, but also on legislation which may impact occupational and environmental health and safety in general. This includes legislation which CIHC considers to have impact on our stakeholders – the workers of California.

CIHC (<https://www.cihconline.com/about-cihc>) was founded in 1990 to establish a legislative presence in the California State Capitol for the OEHS profession. It is supported by the local sections of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) within California. The local sections consist of Northern CA, Orange County, Sacramento Valley, San Diego, and Southern CA. CIHC is designated as the AIHA State Governmental Affairs Organization in California. There are 15 board members, made up of three volunteer directors from each California local section.

Thank you for your consideration,



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