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**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 972**

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FILE



50 Sandhill Road
Reno, OH 45773-8002

Case 10-501-EL-FOR

August 20, 2012

To: The Board Members of the Ohio Public Utilities Commission

Re: Help us help those who have served our country.

Dear Board Members,

I am writing you today to ask for your support for a project that has the potential to employ several construction electricians in our area. The Turning Piont Solar project if approved by your committee will not only get our currently unemployed electricians back to work, but it will also allow us to recruit others including those who serve our country through programs like Helmets 2 Hardhats.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker (IBEW) Local Union # 972 and the Marietta Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) are active participants in the Helmets 2 Hardhats Program. The Helmets 2 Hardhats Program is a national program administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment (CMRAVE). Funding and support come from private foundations, employers, employer associations and Trade Unions. The goal is to connect National Guard, Reserve, retired, and transitioning active duty military members with training and employment opportunities in our industry. The program allows candidates to start construction careers, and gives them credit for military training and experience. Simply put, the program is to help those with military experience get hired in civilian construction trades jobs. Making this program a win, win for each party involved.

The Marietta Electrical JATC is a VA approved training program. This allows the veterans to draw from their G.I. Bill while serving out the apprenticeship. Our apprenticeship is a mixture of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Normally an apprentice will spend 5 years receiving his or her training. When all class work is finished and a total of 8000 work hours are completed they will graduate and become a Journeyman Wireman. Apprentice's wages are based on their skill level, which raises as their level of experience and training increases. Often, an apprentice who is part of the H2H program gets credit from their military experience and enters at an advanced level.

The Marietta Electrical JATC is always looking for strong candidates for its apprenticeship, and we have found several great additions over the years with Veterans from all different branches of the Armed Services. IBEW Local Union # 972 currently has 23 active members who are Veterans. This is over 13% of our current membership.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.

Technician

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The Marietta Electrical JATC currently has four veterans enrolled in our apprenticeship program.

Many of our current and retired Veterans are active with different organizations and charities within our community. Recently our focus has been on helping one of our own. US Army PFC Kyle Hockingberry was severely injured after stepping on a land mine in Afganistan. Upon hearing of Kyle's injuries and his return home, building Kyle a "smart" home soon became our top priority. Brother Nicholas Dobbs of the IBEW, a Marine Veteran, rallied the other Trade Unions into donating all the labor needed to build Kyle a new "smart" house. We also had several of our members donate their time to help set up and tear down equipment for a benefit concert, that helped raise money for the building supplies and furnishings for Kyle's new home.

The IBEW is proud to assist our Veterans with their endeavors in transitioning back into the civilian workforce. The Turning Point Solar project will help us provide jobs for some of those sons and daughters that have proudly served and now are looking forward to returning home.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Ferrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Troy" and last name "Ferrell" clearly distinguishable.

Troy Ferrell
Business Manager
IBEW Local Union 972