Sisters and Brothers,

Yesterday (3-25-2020) Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued a stay at home executive order. This order goes into effect Friday, March 27, at 11:59 pm and goes through Friday, April 10, at 5 pm. You can read the entire executive order [here](#). It lays out clearly what people are allowed and not allowed to do. This order does not force anyone to work; it gives members the choice and allows them to work.

I can report that the Governor’s executive order has broadly exempted construction workers and that, for the most part, IBEW 110 Sisters and Brothers that think it is safe will stay on the job continuing to provide the critical services that our state needs.

Our members are ready to answer the call of duty and are prepared to stay on the job to continue to perform their critical work in a way that protects themselves and the public and follows CDC health guidelines. There will be many questions about what jobs are included in the exemption, and this will be confusing, chaotic, and could evolve. But for now, here is my initial read of the types of work and workers that will be exempted from this stay at home order.

My initial read of the exemptions for construction workers is:

- Workers in skilled trades related to construction of **all** kinds
- Electricians are specifically listed as a critical trade
- Workers engaged in roadway construction, maintenance, and utility projects
- Workers performing public works construction, including the construction of critical or strategic infrastructure
- Construction materials suppliers and workers providing services necessary to maintain construction materials sources
- Workers supporting building code enforcement
- Workers performing any construction required in response to COVID-19, including health care facilities and essential businesses and serves
- Construction required for emergency repairs and safety
- Critical Labor Functions: Includes labor union essential functions, including health and welfare funds and monitoring safety of members
- Public works/wastewater government workers
- Employers servicing equipment necessary for any of these critical tasks

**Congressional/State Action**

Congressional action is imminent on an aid package for workers and businesses. It will likely include direct cash payments to workers, and an extension of federal unemployment.

The state of Minnesota Legislature will be meeting today to pass some coronavirus related items.

We will keep you posted on these developments as they occur.

**Rules for Employers**
Our Business Agents continue to be in contact with employers and members regarding how this situation is being handled in the workplace.

We are gathering information on how the new federal law changes that are coming anytime now will impact employers and workers, and our Business Agents will have the latest information.

If any member has any concerns about their workplace regarding safety or work rules your employer is implementing call your Business Agent – they are on the job.

Lastly, continue to follow this/our website updates as this is a rapidly changing situation. I want to tell you I’m proud of all of you and our staff for how we are handling this challenge. Our members are coming together to get through this. Members have been patient with us as we do the best we can to adapt. IBEW 110 Business Agents and administrative staff have done an outstanding job putting the membership first and making sure that we continue to serve you through this crisis.

There is an old saying – tough times don’t last, tough people do – that’s who we are as electricians, and I have no doubt that we will come out of this crisis stronger than ever. Hang in there, take care of each other, do your part to help slow this virus, and keep up to date on the latest information.

Respectfully,

Jamie McNamara
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 110