

IBEW Local Union 1245  
30 Orange Tree Circle  
Vacaville, CA 95687  
Telephone: (707) 452-2700  
Fax: (707) 452-2701  
www.ibew1245.com



# IBEW 1245

THE POWER IS IN OUR HANDS

BOB DEAN, BUSINESS MANAGER  
CECELIA DE LA TORRE, PRESIDENT

March 25, 2023

**The Honorable Elaine Marzola, Chair**  
Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor  
State Capitol, Room 4100  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

**RE: Assembly Bill 321 (Carter) – Strong Support**

Dear Chair Watts:

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1245 (IBEW 1245) working in Nevada, I write to urge you to support AB 321.

The State of Nevada has established itself as a national leader in clean energy. But Nevada must take the next step and assure safe and reliable electric service. Today we run the risk of having customers out of power at critical moments, like heat during waves. Also, many Nevadans rely on electric service to operate lifesaving medical equipment, not to mention critical ambulatory and communications devices. In short, reliable electrical service is essential for all Nevadans.

Unfortunately, there remains a major risk to customers and the utility workers that serve them – mylar balloons. They are the most frequent cause of electrical service interruptions to customers in the State. These shiny, silvery balloons are actually metallic. When a mylar balloon interacts with electrical infrastructure the results are almost always bad; outages, severe damage to electrical lines and/or equipment, even arcing and fires. The metallic content conducts electricity – when mylar balloons contact electrical lines they wrap around electrical lines causing the line to fail and putting hundreds, or even thousands of customers out. For members of IBEW responding to these hazards, there is great risk in attempting to remove the mylar balloon while ensuring the least adverse impact to customers.

Fortunately, there is a solution; AB 321. AB 321 will correct this problem by slowly phasing out these balloons and improving the reliability of Nevada's electric service. Of equal importance to the IBEW, AB 321 removes a highly dangerous risk and create safer working conditions for utility workers.

The members of IBEW 1245 respectfully urge you to pass AB 321.

Sincerely,

*s/ Hunter Stern*

Assistant Business Manager

cc: Assembly Member Max Carter  
Members, Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor  
Committee Manager, Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor