

AGC ARKANSAS

November 9, 2015

Arkansas Board of Electrical Examiners
Arkansas Department of Labor
10421 West Markham Street
Little Rock AR 72205

Re: Proposed amendments to Rules 010.13-009, 010.13-013 and 010.13-022

Dear Members:

Please consider this letter to be the strong endorsement AGC Arkansas, the statewide chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, to the proposed rule changes referenced above.

As our economy continues to improve, in Arkansas and across the nation, we are facing a severe worker shortage in all areas of construction, including the trades. When we initiated SB 754 with Senator Hester, we did so in recognition of our need to increase the pool of potential employees in the electrical trade without compromising safety.

By adopting the 3:1 ratio and its "line of sight" requirement, which mirrors legislation and rules already in place in many states across the country, industry will have the ability to train more individuals in the electric and plumbing trades to replace those aging out of the workforce without sacrificing safety. It is truly a win-win for both employers and owners/clients.

We also support the proposed rule change related to licensure of active duty service members, returning veterans and their spouses. Again, anything that will expedite getting more licenses workers in the field will be healthy for the industry, especially from this pool of Arkansans who will, typically, be more mature, experienced and work-ready.

We appreciate the work you do in promoting professionalism and safety in the electrical trade and look forward to a positive result from your hearing.

Sincerely,



Richard Hedgecock
Executive Vice President