



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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March 12, 2013

Submitted electronically to: WHDPRAComments@dol.gov

Ms. Mary Beth Maxwell, Acting Deputy Administrator
Division of Regulations, Legislation, and Interpretation
Wage and Hour, U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Room S-3502
Washington, DC 20210

**RE: Comments regarding FR Doc. 2013-00389: Proposed Information
Collection Request for the Worker Classification Survey**

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

The IBEW is a non-profit national labor organization that provides collective bargaining representation and other membership services on behalf of its approximately 725,000 members. The IBEW represents workers employed in a variety of industries including: construction, manufacturing, telecommunications, and utilities. The IBEW supports the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor's proposal to conduct a worker classification survey of employers and employees.

The IBEW agrees that worker misclassification is prevalent today and results in billions of dollars of lost unemployment insurance, Social Security, and income tax revenue.¹ Based on extensive experience educating its own membership, the IBEW believes that most workers do not have comprehensive knowledge of labor and employment law or enforcement of the law.² This general lack of knowledge has created a situation where unrepresented workers are either unaware of the impact of their classification or are unaware of where to go with questions regarding their classification. The IBEW is confident that a survey would confirm these assertions.

For the most accurate results, the IBEW encourages Abt Associates and the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor to design a flexible survey that can be completed in several ways. The IBEW supports a survey that asks for in-depth information from employees and employers. However, it believes workers and employers will need to have the option to complete the survey in several sessions at times and in a manner convenient for them. Because the IBEW membership is so diverse, the IBEW communicates with its members in a variety of ways. A 2012 survey of IBEW members revealed that communication through mail and email is most effective.³ And when

¹ Proposed Information Collection Request for the Worker Classification Survey; Comment Request, 78 Fed. Register 9 at .2448 (Feb. 11, 2013).

² The IBEW has a department dedicated to educating IBEW membership, local union leaders, international representatives and officers. Training is conducted on a year-round basis.

³ February 2012 IBEW Poll (Feb. 11, 2012).



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communicating by phone it is important to schedule the calls for various times of day to ensure maximum participation.⁴

The results of a carefully designed and executed survey would lay the foundation for policies addressing worker misclassification. The IBEW supports the proposed survey and looks forward to its completion.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Edwin D. Hill", is positioned above the printed name.

Edwin D. Hill
International President

EDH:jcq

⁴ *Id.*