

LOCAL UNION 21

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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For Immediate Release
April 24, 2007

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States Largest Telecom Union Supports HB 1500 Cable and Video Competition ***IBEW Lobby Day Held to Gain Support for Passage of Bill***

(Chicago, IL) – Over 500 telecom workers converged today on the State Capitol to gain support for House Bill 1500. Traveling from every corner of Illinois, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 21 traveled by bus, using the opportunity to contact and lobby their own legislators to vote to pass House Bill 1500.

Ronald Kastner, President-Business Manager of IBEW Local 21 in Illinois and NW Indiana said, “Passage of this bill is imperative to put Illinois on the leading edge of making change in this country of ours, growing jobs and sparking competition. I want Illinois to be considered a state ahead of the curve - not a state contributing to the problem.” Kastner continued, “Our organization supports this legislation because it will create good union jobs that support Illinois families.”

H.B. 1500 is an important step in modernizing Illinois telecommunications laws to take account of the greater possibilities and the far reaching benefits of competition. The bill would grant state-wide operating authority to new video providers, allow competition to develop to the greatest extent possible, and would ensure that all technologies face a level playing field.

The IBEW, including IBEW Local Union 21, the Illinois State AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor all support passage of House Bill 1500.

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Background – Local Union 21 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW – an affiliate of the AFL-CIO) is made up of over 11,000 members working mostly in Illinois and NW Indiana. Working under dozens of contracts, including AT&T, Comcast, and other employers, Local Union 21 members largely work in skilled jobs in the telecommunications industry. IBEW Local Union 21, headquartered in Downers Grove, IL, is the largest IBEW communications union in the United States and Canada and the fourth largest local union in the IBEW.

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