

James Beamer—Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 812

Thank you, Senator Argall and Senator Yaw, for inviting me to participate here today. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 812 has been serving this community since 1938. In 1947 we founded the Williamsport JATC with our partners at the Penn Del Jersey Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) to provide a highly trained future workforce for our industry. The Williamsport JATC trains electricians through apprenticeship in Clinton, Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga counties along with parts of Bradford, Centre, Northumberland, Sullivan and Union Counties.

Our apprenticeship program consists of 8,000 hours of on-the-job training along with 900 hours of related classroom instruction. Apprentices earn industry standard wages while working for local contractors and traveling contractors who perform work within the region. The Williamsport JATC does not charge tuition and is funded by negotiated contributions from IBEW members and NECA contractors. Graduates receive a national industry recognized certificate. We generally have 20-25 active apprentices at any given time.