

From: [EDC](#)
To: [Freedman, Andrea](#)
Subject: FW: UW Health testimony and follow up on staff comments about certification requirements
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From: Aulik, Juli A <JAulik@uwhealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 6:23 PM
To: EDC <EDC@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Statz, Mary C <MStatz3@uwhealth.org>; Aulik, Juli A <JAulik@uwhealth.org>
Subject: UW Health testimony and follow up on staff comments about certification requirements

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Dear economic development committee members, below please find Mary Statz's testimony that she offered to you verbally. In response to staff's answer to Alder Evers' question, our reading of the proposed ordinance is that it only provides "additional qualified certifications as the Administrator deems appropriate." This provision continues to require certification of some sort. Jessica Price's answer asserted that our staff could get certified. We object to the idea that our staff would need to get certified for "quality control." The proposed ordinance does not allow the administrator to approve staff based on experience alone, that is why we made the request we did in our testimony, that the language be amended to consider experience or certification. Thank you, Juli

Juli Aulik (she/her/hers)
Director, Community Relations
UW Health

Good evening. I oversee energy management and sustainability for UW Health and was engaged in the summer workshops about this ordinance. UW Health is very committed to energy conservation and sustainability. In 2016, UW Health committed to the US Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge setting the goal of a 20% energy use intensity reduction from a 2013 baseline by 2023. We surpassed our goal six years ahead of schedule by achieving a 24% reduction. In 2022 UW Health signed the US Department of Energy's Better Climate Challenge, committing to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 10 years.

While UW Health supports the goals of the ordinance, I oppose the certification requirement outlined for the "tune up specialist": UW Health has over 100 employees in our maintenance and engineering department that specialize in maintaining our heating and ventilation systems every day. They do not have the certifications listed in the proposed ordinance, but they are technically savvy and highly-skilled at what they do. They are invaluable in their knowledge of our buildings and their mechanical systems, and in helping UW Health reduce energy use. They also have expertise specific to healthcare which is of fundamental importance on many levels. They deliver results for us every day.

Our staff can meet the requirements of the proposed ordinance. There isn't a need for UW Health to hire outside consultants. That would at best be duplicative and expensive – at a time when healthcare certainly cannot afford an additional, unnecessary expense – and do not help advance the goals of the proposed ordinance or our well-established internal priorities.

I'll share an example: We recently went through an energy efficiency project in our operating rooms at East Madison Hospital. Operating rooms use 5-6 times more energy than the rest of the hospital. Two UW Health staff were involved in this project, both highly qualified but did not have the certifications listed. In the end, this project is saving us over 190 thousand kilowatt hours and 7,500 therms annually. We could have saved more, but our staff were aware of an issue that would trip the duct static pressure sensor. Third party certified staff would not have been aware of the nuances of our building systems and could have compromised the outcome in our operating rooms.

While the proposed ordinance does include a provision that allows “additional qualified certifications as the Administrator deems appropriate,” that does not address our concerns.

We propose a less-prescriptive approach that explicitly allows employees deemed qualified by their employer to be qualified as “tune up specialists.” Alternatively, the Administrator should be instructed to consider experience only and not require certifications.

Thank you.