

Advance praise for
High Voltage Women: Breaking Barriers at Seattle City Light

“Ellie Belew ably traces a complex story into an accessibly written, detailed narrative. Belew’s account is grounded in interviews with the participants in the City Light fight and draws heavily on the rich archives of primary source materials that she employs deftly in blow-by-blow study. The discussion deftly weaves the stories of the ETT tradeswomen workers, their union, the City of Seattle, City Light’s management, and advocacy organizations like Radical Women.

“The book integrates the threads of national and state affirmative action law, city policy, and on-the-ground demands by the activists that illuminate the grassroots nature of the implementation of affirmative action policies and the necessity of direct action in Seattle, revealing the critical role of tradeswomen activists in demanding and protecting their rights under the law. The study outlines how these activists articulated demands for the law as written, on visions of what justice under the law should be.”

—**Conor Casey**, Labor Archivist, Labor Archives of Washington,
University of Washington, Seattle

“Women in the electrical trades today are enjoying the results of those who came before them and fought long and hard for their rightful place to work alongside Journey-level workers at Seattle City Light. In the beginning, ten brave and daring women were met with relentless resistance and faced overwhelming challenges that tested their minds and their bodies but never broke their spirit. Determination and true grit drove them to break through barriers that may have seemed impossible to overcome at times, but they never gave up.

“Our Union is grateful for and so proud of our members who worked hard to achieve equality in the workplace and never let discrimination and harassment discourage them from abandoning their goals and aspirations. We sincerely appreciate everyone who came together to tell the story of ten heroic pioneers who deserve our recognition and our gratitude for bringing diversity and equality to Seattle City Light and IBEW Local 77.

“Thank you to everyone for sharing this amazing story and giving hope and inspiration to women in every workplace and the courage to follow their dreams, knowing that the path to success is achievable and their goals can be accomplished because now they have the power and history on their side to make it happen.”

—**Louis R. Walter**, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local 77