

To members of the Energy and Technology Committee, This is written testimony on HB 6509-An Act Concerning Licensing Requirements Of Certain Telecommunications Providers.

My name is Sean Daly, I am a representative of the International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers. We represent over 6000 members in Ct.

Who work in the electrical industry. We are opposed to HB 6509 for the following reasons. Our field is a dangerous profession and definitely requires a license. We all go through a rigorous apprenticeship for years of training in our fields. Safety is of the utmost importance in the industry. When individuals are working up on telephone poles there is also a voltage of 2160 volts which is lethal, its not just low voltage telephone wires. In homes and businesses there are also lethal voltages. We believe that no individual who is not properly trained and licensed should ever be allowed to work on any electrical system. Sometimes when telephone companies and cable TV companies need extra help they hire people from other states to perform labor. These are the guys we see in trucks with magnetic signs on the door with out of state plates working on the poles and other places. The majority of these workers are unlicensed and are used as cheap labor sub contractors. Breaking apart any licensing law would be a huge disservice to the consumer the public and everyone's safety in our state. If the over 13,000 licensed electrical workers in Ct. could voice their opinion Im sure they would agree. We all have to take code update classes yearly as a license requirement and most are also required to have OSHA training. What would an unlicensed telecommunication worker be required to have if there is no law to protect him/her or the public? Thank you for taking the time to read this and please do your best not to support HB 6509.

Sincerely, Sean Daly