



LOCAL 90

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

2 NORTH PLAINS INDUSTRIAL ROAD WALLINGFORD, CT 06492  
203-265-9267 FAX 203-265-9312

**SEAN W. DALY**  
REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Before the GAE Committee  
March 16, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my name is Roger Johnson, and I am here on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to testify in opposition to the proposal within the Governor's budget to eliminate the Electrical Work Examining Board (the Board), which can be found in bill 6375 AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW AND TERMINATION OF CERTAIN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

The IBEW feels the Board is an integral piece of the process when it comes to enforcement and oversight of electrical licensing and certification laws. The Board is comprised of those in the industry who are considered experts in the field and therefore most qualified to be the decision makers when it comes to discipline of the workers.

If the Board were to be wiped out completely, it would leave all responsibility in the hands of the Department of Consumer Protection. The IBEW feels this is of great concern. On the one hand, the Department may not have enough staff to handle the increased workload it would acquire, which we feel would jeopardize the effectiveness of the enforcement process. Secondly, as was previously mentioned, members of the Board are those who are the most knowledgeable about the nature of the industry, and are most qualified to determine when an individual is deserving of punishment.

The IBEW feels this is most importantly an issue of safety and quality. If the Boards are eliminated, we could not feel confident that occupational licensing laws would be enforced in a strict manner. If the Examining Boards are acknowledged and included in the disciplinary process, we can feel confident offenders will receive suitable penalties, and the quality and security of our industry will remain in tact.

**IBEW**