



**TESTIMONY
JOHN YUSZA, JR.
CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION
(CASIA)
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) *supports* efforts to increase enforcement of the state's occupational licensing laws, as called for **SB-849, An Act Concerning Municipal Enforcement of Licensure Laws.** .

Clearly, contractors who utilize unlicensed workers to perform work requiring a license or registration should be punished. Although the state Department of Consumer Protection does a tremendous job with the resources it has, the department lacks the resources and staff needed to conduct field inspections or stings to ensure that contractors and apprentices on projects are duly licensed or registered. As a result, these contractors continue to operate, knowing that it is unlikely that they will get caught.

Contractors that do not abide by the regulations that govern their trade and who create potentially unsafe work environments should be punished. Those of us who have worked hard to promote the professionalism of the industry through licensure and continuing education support efforts to enhance enforcement. This is also in the best interest of consumers.

Municipal building officials are in the best position to assist in enforcement because they must be project sites checking for compliance as part of their regular duties. Authorizing them to review licenses and registrations and refer violations to the state Department of Consumer Protection will utilize their expertise in ways that will benefit the state's consumers.

CASIA therefore urges lawmakers to support SB-849. Thank you.

CASIA / Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association, established, in 1974, is a statewide trade association formerly known as the Connecticut Burglar and Fire Alarm Association / CBF AA. Dedicated to protecting lives and property through the responsible use of electronic security, fire and supervisory alarm systems, digital technologies have enabled member companies to offer enhanced services through integrated network systems.