

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

## LOCAL UNION NO. 30-A, 30-B, 30-C, 30-D

# 30

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

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March 18, 2010

Energy and Technology Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Good Afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello and distinguished members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Anthony Calandrino and I submitting my testimony on SB 462 – An Act Concerning Power Plant Safety. I am the Business Representative for Local 30 of the International Union of Operating Engineers which is an organization with 100+ years of experience in the operation, maintenance and repair of power plants. Currently, almost 400 of our members are residents of the State of Connecticut. Local 30 would like to take this opportunity to commend the General Assembly for proposing Raised Bill No. 462, and to offer some suggestions for improvements to the bill.

While the General Assembly bill has had the foresight to address the coordination of safety programs; the nature of probable environmental impacts; and concerns over electro-magnetic fields it makes only passing reference to “the operation of such facility”. Local 30 believes, and I am sure you would agree, that the operation of such a facility should be a primary concern of the General Assembly.

With all due respect, it is our contention that SB 462 fails to adequately address that the operation of a power plant is an inherently dangerous activity.

Power plant operation is nothing more than a controlled explosion, where the operating engineer takes mass quantities of hydro-carbon fuel and converts it to thermal energy, then to mechanical energy through a turbine which turns a generator that produces electricity. This process and the ability to operate the requisite equipment demand a high level of education and experience to ensure safe operation and limited environmental impact. It is no accident that the U.S. Coast Guard requires power plant engineers to have years of experience and education and then tests them on the same before issuing the requisite license.

*Organizing - The Key to Our Union's Future!!!*

The way for Connecticut to ensure the safe and efficient operation of power plants is to establish a license requirement that states years of experience and education and then test the individual in the safe and efficient operation of said equipment.

Local 30 stands ready to work with, the General Assembly to develop a Stationary Engineer Training Program in Connecticut that will go a long way toward ensuring that the state has a sufficient number of highly trained operating engineers to facilitate the continued growth of the industry.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Anthony Calandrino  
Business Representative  
Local 30