

Testimony

Joseph P. Bonner

Bonner Electric, Inc.

Before the General Law Committee

February 25, 2010

Legislative Office Building

Sen. Colapietro, Rep. Shapiro and members of the committee, my name is Joseph P. Bonner of Bonner Electric and I am here to testify in support of the intent of HB-5225, An Act Concerning Solar Work.

I have been an E1 Unlimited Electrical Contractor, in the State of CT for the past thirty four (34) years. To become an Electrical Contractor I had to serve a four year apprenticeship, and two years as a Journeyman Electrician prior to sitting for the E1 exam. As part of the requirements to maintain my license in the State of CT, I am required to complete seven (7) hours of Continued Education every year. Also, each electrician working on a State of CT project is required to have completed an OSHA 10 hour certification.

In addition to being an Electrical Contractor, I am certified to perform solar Photovoltaic (PV) installations as part of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund programs. PV installations consist of multiple Direct Current (DC) modules that tie back to a DC to AC inverter, the voltages involved with these DC circuits can be upwards of 600V; fifty (50) times more than the 12V DC system you would have in your automobile. These 600V DC circuits are run from the modules, through the structure of the customer's residence or business, back to the inverter, and then this AC power is connected into the main power system for the building. For the sake of consumer safety, it is critical that these circuits be installed by a licensed and experienced electrician that is up to date with the latest codes and safety requirements. By supporting HB-5225, you will be strengthening the training and experience requirements for individuals installing solar PV systems and ensuring the safety of the consumers and general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my point of view to you.