

SAFE AT WORK
233 Mill St
Waterbury CT 06706

Labor and Public Employees Committee
Re: House Bill 5205

February 23, 2010

My name is Daniel Gorman and I am the president of Safe at Work and a member of the CCIA safety committee. As the member of the committee that brought this bill forward I obviously have strong feelings about both its importance to the safety of the work force and how it should be regulated. I want to recognize the state for also realizing the importance of continued safety training and education for employees by limiting the OSHA 10 hour training to an initial five year acceptance. When I proposed this bill it was not to undermine the states requirement for retraining but to offer a viable alternative to a full 10 hour retraining every five years. After intense discussions and debate with the CCIA safety committee, who's members in and of themselves are all experienced construction safety specialists, we determined that the best solution would be to require four hours of retraining every three years. We would like the training program to require that topics covered include High Hazards (as in the focus four) and any new regulations or changes which have occurred between the retraining programs. We also agreed that the training should be conducted by OSHA authorized trainers as they are the only ones who could initially issue a 10 hour card and they receive updates and retraining through OSHA on a regular schedule. I cannot stress how passionate I feel that the retraining should be done in three year increments and not five years as proposed. The need for continuous training can be identified by the number of injuries and deaths which occur each year in the construction industry simply because an employee did not recognize a hazardous condition or because they forgot the safety standards which they should have applied. Most OSHA citations are not issued because someone willfully ignored a regulation but most often because an employee forgot about them. Having the retraining done in shorter cycles will help eliminate the possibility of employee safety amnesia and hopefully contribute to fewer injuries and fatalities in the workplace in the years to come.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.
Respectfully,

Daniel J Gorman