



# Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, Inc.

TO: The Honorable Edith Prague and Rep. Kevin Ryan  
Members of the Labor Committee

From: Lisa Hutner, Executive Director

Date: February 23, 2010

Re: **HB-5205, An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Courses**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) *supports HB-5205, An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Courses.*

Under current law, each contractor on certain public works jobs must furnish proof that anyone performing the work of a mechanic or laborer has completed a 10 hour OSHA-approved construction safety training course within five years prior to the start of the project. This is critical to protecting the safety and health of our workers.

Once the 10 hour OSHA-approved course is completed, HB-5205 allows workers to take a refresher course to update their safety training rather than repeat the same class every five years. This will ensure that the training is more focused and relevant in ways that will truly protect the safety and health of our workers. Connecticut is one of only a few states that requires the safety training course to be taken every five years. The vast majority of states do not require the training or only require it to be completed once.

We understand that the language included in HB-5205 may be revised and we look forward to working with stakeholders to ensure that the language protects workers in a reliable and practical manner.

*The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England is the premier trade association representing Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island independent electrical contractors aggressively working with the industry to establish a free environment for merit shop -- a philosophy that promotes the concept of free enterprise, open competition and economic opportunity for all.*

**1800 Silas Deane Highway, Rear Building, Rocky Hill, CT 06067**  
(860) 563-4953 Fax (860) 563-5453 Toll Free (866) GO IEC NE  
email: [lisa@iecne.org](mailto:lisa@iecne.org) [www.iecne.org](http://www.iecne.org)