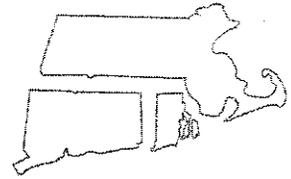




**Independent Electrical Contractors
of New England, Inc.**



**Testimony
Lisa Hutner Stevens
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England
Before the
Energy Committee
March 17, 2011**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) submits the following comments regarding **SB-1168 - AN ACT CONCERNING AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

We support efforts to update the state Building Code to reflect changes in technology and safety that are updated on a three-year cycle on the national level. In fact, the 2011 National Electric Code includes changes to support the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure. Unfortunately, the State Building Inspector does not update the building codes on a regular basis and Connecticut is lagging behind a number of states in adopting the 2008 and 2011 versions of the NEC.

We believe requiring the State Building Inspector to update the codes in a more timely manner will ensure that Connecticut's building infrastructure supports the safe installation of new technologies. In addition to electric vehicles, this would include new safety requirements relative to the installation of Solar PV and Solar Thermal technologies. For example, changes in the 2011 edition of the Code have been made with respect to solar PV, to reflect changes in technologies and safety practices, including language for requirements for arc-fault detectors in PV array circuits; major clarifications for disconnects for current carrying conductors; and a major change for DC source circuits in metal conduit in buildings. This is vital to ensuring that Connecticut keeps up-to-date with changing technologies.

Requiring codes to be updated in a timely manner will promote electrical safety and the adoption of new energy efficient technologies. Recognizing this, the vast majority of states have elevated the importance of electrical safety by ensuring that updates to the National Electrical Code are adopted. *In fact, of the 42 states that utilize statewide adoption, 37 states have already adopted the 2008 NEC.*

The National Electric Code is the most authoritative and comprehensive document on electrical safety. The Code addresses safety issues ranging from fire to electrocution. It is adopted and created through a series of panel discussions across the country with the input of the people in the industry. It is revised every three years to reflect new technologies, improved installation and safety practices and critical safeguards for consumers and people that work in the industry. By failing to adopt the 2008 and 2011 updates to the National Electrical Code, Connecticut has neglected to incorporate many important safety provisions designed to reduce injuries and deaths resulting from electro shock.

We therefore urge support for the bill and consideration of amendments to require the State Building Inspector to adopt the NEC in a timelier manner.

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