

**Testimony of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
General Law Committee**

Tuesday February 22, 2011

Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, members of the General Law Committee, my name is Paul Costello; Apprenticeship Director for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 90 and National Electrical Contractors Association Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. I am here to express our support of HB 5021, An Act Concerning Continuing Professional Education for Electricians.

The IBEW builds its reputation on safety and education and is continually offering training to its members. Topics include OSHA 10 and 30 Hour Construction Safety, Significant Changes to the Code, Electrical Safety, New Technology training, and other trade related courses. Our organization is one of the leading providers of the required continuing education for all licensed electricians in the state. As a provider, and an instructor of the course I have heard the comments and concerns of the license holders attending the classes. Many stating that the topics covered are repeated from one year to the next and of their frustration of the state not adopting the latest editions of the National Electrical Code. The first couple of years there was great interest and no problem filling the day presenting the significant changes in the electrical code, unfortunately that has not been the case over the past few years. The 2011 National Electrical Code is the latest edition replacing the 2008 edition. Neither has been adopted in Connecticut leaving providers to cover the same material again. A four hour course will cover other electrical industry topics until our code is updated and providers can present the new changes.

I fully support the requirement of continual education to make sure that the licensed electricians in the state are keeping up with all of the changes to the electrical code. The Electrical Examining Board has recommended the course be a minimum of four hours each year and at their discretion it can be up to seven hours depending on the material that needs to be conveyed that year.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and I ask for your support to HB 5021.

Respectfully,

Paul Costello