



**TESTIMONY  
JOHN YUSZA, JR.  
CONNECTICUT ALARM & SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS ASSOCIATION  
(CASIA)  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSING COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 8, 2011**

**Re: SB-666, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN RENTAL PROPERTIES.**

The Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA) *opposes* SB-666, which allows certain individuals to circumvent the state's occupational licensing laws to perform work and maintenance on residential rental properties that could involve electrical and other trade work for which a license is required.

Electrical work should only be performed by licensed professionals who understand the inherent risks involved and have the knowledge and training needed to perform the work safely. Connecticut's occupational licensing laws, which should be vigorously enforced, are critical to protecting consumers from unsafe electrical work that could very well put lives and property at risk.

SB-666 would allow individuals who hold a mechanic's license or engineering degree to perform work on residential properties. These people may not have sufficient training in the field to perform this work properly and safely. By performing this work without a license, they could be endangering the lives and property of their tenants.

If such individuals believe that they have the requisite education, training and experience, they are free to submit their credentials to the appropriate examining board, which will determine whether they are eligible to sit for a licensing exam. The examining board is made up of professionals in the trade who understand the type of training and education that is required to safely perform the work.

Rather than carving out exemptions in the state's licensing laws, lawmakers should focus on strengthening enforcement of the state's occupational licensing laws to protect consumers from unsafe and shoddy work.

**We urge the committee to reject SB-666.**

*CASIA, a statewide trade association established in 1974, is comprised of alarm companies working together to protect lives and property through the responsible use of electrical security and fire alarm systems. Our members are professional and technically skilled and experienced in integrated systems for intrusion and fire systems, closed circuit television, telephone, intercom, home theater, access control systems and computer wiring.*