

International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL UNIONS 478, 478A, 478C, 478D, 478E

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Testimony Offered in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 480- An Act Concerning Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and distinguished members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Kyle Zimmer, the Lead Health & Safety Instructor for I.U.O.E. Local 478 Training and I am here today testifying on behalf of the Operating Engineers Local 478, an organization representing over 3,500 workers in the construction industry in Connecticut.

We first want to thank you for raising this bill. We feel that Senate Bill 480 will help to keep the construction workers of Connecticut safer by expanding the OSHA 10 requirements for individuals so they can be updated on key safety practices, any safety laws or regulations and to be informed on new technologies. Requiring construction workers to undertake refresher training on a regular four years basis for four hours will keep them better informed with regard to changes in safety in the construction industry.

I think that you would agree that anything that will encourage safety or teach workers about safety is sure to result in better worksites, and a reduction in injuries. Local 478 believes that this improvement to the OSHA 10 statute will have a positive impact on worker safety in the industry.

Requiring individuals to undertake a refresher course will serve to inform individuals in the construction field on safer ways to do their jobs, and will remind them just how dangerous their chosen field of work can be.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for your continued interest in enhancing the safety of construction workers in the State of Connecticut.