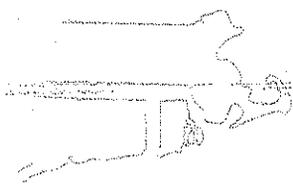




**Independent Electrical Contractors
of New England, Inc.**



**Testimony
Lisa Hutner Stevens
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England
Before the
Public Safety Committee
February 15, 2011**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) strongly opposes **SB-931, An Act Concerning the Definition of Hoisting Equipment.**

This bill overregulates the use of hoisting equipment in a way that will drive up costs for small contractors and their customers. Significantly reducing the size threshold sweeps forklifts, loaders, backhoes, and other excavators under the definition of hoisting which will require special licenses to operate such machinery. This will impose additional burdens on electricians and other small contractors and will in no way improve safety.

The Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA) already sets training requirements for the use of excavators which are specific to the type of equipment being used. Employers must also stake steps to ensure that employees understand the training and how to properly and safely use the equipment. These requirements are more than sufficient to protect the safety of workers and others on the job site. Additional licensing requirements are unnecessary and burdensome.

Contractors are struggling in today's economy. Adding more regulatory burdens that will make it more costly to do business in this state with no appreciable benefit to the safety of workers and customers is simply irresponsible.

We therefore urge you to **OPPOSE SB-931.**