



**HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home  
Is Our  
Business*

February 22, 2011

To: Senator Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman  
Representative Steve Dargan, Co-Chairman  
Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

From: Bill Ethier, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **Senate Bill 549, AAC Crane and Hoisting Operators**

**The HBA of Connecticut is a professional trade association with 1,100 member firms** statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens. Our members, all small businesses, are residential and commercial builders, land developers, home improvement contractors, trade contractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry. Our members build 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in the state each year.

**We express concern regarding SB 549 to the extent it would become a vehicle to amend the definition of hoisting equipment or remove the current exemptions in law for obtaining a hoisting equipment operator's license.** If an amendment to SB 549 is offered to change either the definition of hoisting equipment or the current law exemption for which projects require a hoisting operator's license, we strongly renew the opposition we expressed on SB 931.

**Beyond the concern expressed above,** we question - only from a lack of knowledge - what additional benefits would accrue to workers or the public safety, and what additional requirements, delays or expenses are imposed on employers, from requiring "anyone who applies for and receives a crane or hoisting operator's apprenticeship license be enrolled in a registered apprenticeship program ...." What is the issue intended to be addressed by this new requirement? We also do not know how many "registered apprenticeship programs" exist and who manages such programs. This is important because it is our information and belief that obtaining approval of a registered apprenticeship program is not an easy task. These issues would become especially important for our industry if, for example, in the future proponents of SB 931 are successful in adopting changes to the definition of hoisting equipment or removing or limiting the current law's exemption from hoisting operator's license requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

*"Leading Our Members to Professional Excellence."*

**Serving the Residential Development & Construction Industry Through Advocacy, Education & Networking**