



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



**Testimony  
Lisa Stevens  
Independent Electrical Contractors of New England  
Before the  
Education Committee  
March 9, 2012**

The Independent Electrical Contractors of New England (IEC-NE) supports **HB-5351, An Act Concerning the Vocational-Technical Schools, with revisions.**

The state's Technical High Schools play a vital role in helping to ensure a steady supply of skilled tradespersons to meet the demand for workers in the construction trades. This benefits our overall economy. Many of our members serve on Trade and Technical Advisory Committees (TTAC) to provide input on training, curriculum and equipment to ensure that it remains relevant to the industry.

Creating a separate statewide board of education to oversee the technical schools will provide the schools with the dedication and leadership needed to fulfill their mission of successfully preparing students for careers in the skilled trades and other professions. We believe HB-5351 will strengthen the role and integrity of the state's technical high schools to play a vital role in meeting Connecticut's workforce needs.

IEC-NE recommends, however, that the composition of the board be revised to ensure that employer representatives have the expertise and experience to provide thoughtful support and direction to the schools. We therefore urge revisions to the bill that would require the employer representatives to have experience serving on a Trade and Technology Advisory Committee.

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