



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

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Testimony in favor of Raised Bill No.323 An act Concerning Crane Operations

Good Afternoon, Representative Hartly, Representative Dargan and the honorable members of the Committee on Public Safety and Security. My name is David D'Ostilio. I am the Instructor Supervisor with the International Union of Operating Engineers, a CT Labor Organization that represents over 3,500 Heavy Equipment Operators in CT. I am here today to testify in favor of Raised Bill No.323, An Act Concerning Crane Operations.

Passing this bill will enable the State of Connecticut to comply with the federal regulations set forth by OSHA has many benefits: to holders of the Connecticut State Crane License, the companies that employ these men and women, the workers in the state, the general public and the state of Connecticut.

The Connecticut State Crane License option is the most logical, cost effective and safest for the public, way of meeting OSHA's new standard. The other options for certification approved by OSHA would degrade the high level of competency for which the state of Connecticut's License testing is known. Many of the other certification options have no experience criteria. This would be a detriment to the state because all of the OSHA approved options would have to be accepted if the Connecticut state License doesn't meet a few of OSHA's new changes. Imagine a man or woman from rural America that received their certification without experience, operating a crane with 200 feet of boom in downtown Hartford? The operator of any crane is responsible for the safety of all nearby pedestrians, construction co-workers and property in the area, at all times. Currently Connecticut requires two years of experience.

Making the changes to Connecticut's State statute will save the holders of a state license and new applicants hundreds of dollars. The application fee in the state Connecticut for an apprentice crane permit is \$25.00, new and renewal licenses are \$50.00, and the crane test is \$50.00. Currently on-line, CCC Mobile Crane Training charges for mobile crane certification is \$1795.00 and recertification is \$995.00. Not opting for the Connecticut

State crane license would cause an exorbitant unnecessary expense for all Operators, since OSHA requires retesting at least every 5 years. (By the way, CCC guarantees you to pass – no experience necessary!)

These changes to the statute would also save the employers money. OSHA's final rule on cranes CFR 1926.1427(a)(4) states; "Whenever operator qualification or certification is required under 1926.1427, the employer must provide the qualification or certification at no cost to operators who are employed by the employer on November 8, 2010".

Connecticut not making these small changes would require operators and employers to comply with two standards. Making these changes to meet OSHA's requirement for certification, qualification or license would keep everyone complying within one entity. This would also mean that the state requirements in existence now that exceed OSHA's standard would be in place under one entity.

The language in the Raised Bill as to who must comply, who is exempt and when, is taken from OSHA's final rule. The reason these new rules were put into the standard are based on statistics gathered by OSHA as to when and where most injuries and deaths are occurring. In the preamble to the final rule it states

"OSHA finds that construction workers suffer 89 fatal injuries per year from the types of equipment covered by this final standard. Of that number, OSHA estimates that 21 fatalities would be avoided by compliance with The final standard. In addition, OSHA estimates that the final standard would prevent 175 non-fatal injuries each year. "

This bill is the most sound, practical, logical, cost effective, and safest (for the operators and the public) solution to our current situation.

In summary, your decision in favor of Raised Bill No.323 should be an easy one if you want to maintain our states ranking as one of the safest in Crane Operation in the country.

Thank you very much. I will gladly answer any questions you may have.