



# National Elevator Industry, Inc.

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

5537 SW Urish Road • Topeka, Kansas 66610 • Office: 785.286.7599 • Cell: 785.580.5070 • Fax: 585.302.0841

www.neii.org • e-mail: ajblankenbiller@neii.org

March 5, 2012

State of Connecticut  
Committee on Public Safety and Security

**Re: Raised Bill No. 323 "An Act Concerning Crane Operators"**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of the National Elevator Industry, Inc. (NEII®), the trade association representing firms that install, maintain and/or manufacture elevators, escalators, and moving walkways and other building transportation products. NEII® membership includes the top elevator companies in the U.S., if not the world and reports more than 80 percent of the work hours for the industry. Safety for the riding public and industry personnel is one of NEII®'s top priorities.

NEII® is concerned about aspects of the Bill No. 323 that, if passed into law, would limit the operation of hoisting equipment located on trucks, such as lulls, forklifts, manitous, crane trailers and ceiling lifts, to persons holding a crane operators license. NEII believes that with respect to the elevator industry, this would result in inefficiencies, possible damage to elevator parts and unnecessary expense to building owners. We submit the following concerns and comments on Bill No. 323 as it relates to the elevator industry.

- 1) The operation of the hoisting equipment located on crane trailers and similar vehicles has always been within the province of tradespeople holding the elevator constructors license. Elevator tradespeople are skilled in the operation of this equipment and there is no need to change this practice.
- 2) Many of the parts to be hoisted at the jobsite are fragile and must be handled by a knowledgeable elevator tradesperson to avoid damage. Each elevator company has standard material handling work practices delineating procedures to protect the equipment being handled and all personnel involved in the process. The skilled elevator tradesperson is trained in these standard practices.
- 3) The operation of the mobile hoisting equipment is not complicated, comparable to the equipment one sees lifting product at a home renovation retail store. Elevator parts are packaged and marked for easy hoisting. There is no reason that an elevator tradesperson cannot operate this equipment (as they have been doing for decades).
- 4) The labor agreement between industry and the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) provides in Article 4, Section 2 that elevator constructors are responsible for unloading equipment once it arrives at or near the jobsite. Any jurisdictional disputes that the crane operators may have with another trade are properly addressed by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), rather than through state legislation.
- 5) The IUEC member's safety track record operating this equipment is excellent. We believe there have been very few accidents as a direct result of operating equipment or directing the lifting of material with a crane or other similar equipment.

### NEII ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS

1677 County Route 64 • P.O. Box 838 • Salem, New York 12865-0838 • Phone: 518.854.3100 • Fax: 518-854-3257

NEII and NEII logo – Registered, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

NEII® appreciates the Committee's focus on efficiency and safety in the elevator/escalator industry, and we are committed to working with the legislature, agency officials and building owners to improve safety and efficiency where possible.

Thank you for consideration of the industry's concerns about the implications of Bill No. 323. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information at the NEII® Government Affairs Office (785-286-7599) or via e-mail at [ajblankenbiller@neii.org](mailto:ajblankenbiller@neii.org)

Sincerely,



Amy J. Blankenbiller