# LOCAL 478 • CONNECTICUT

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

1965 Dixwell Avenue • Hamden, Connecticut 06514


## Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 291
## An Act Concerning Crane Operations

Good Afternoon, Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Committee on Public Safety and Security. My name is Nate Brown. I am the Referral Manager and Government Community Relations Director with the International Union of Operating Engineers, a CT Labor Organization that represents over 3,000 Heavy Equipment Operators in CT. I am here today to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 291, An Act Concerning Crane Operations.

I would like to ask for your support for SB 291, An Act Concerning Crane Operations, with the substitute language provided by the Department of Administrative Services/Construction Services. This substitute language is supported by the employers and operators throughout the crane industry here in Connecticut. Extending the effective date simply enables the State of Connecticut to comply with the federal regulations set forth by OSHA and has many benefits to holders of the Connecticut State Crane License and the companies that employ these men and women.

OSHA is publishing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to extend - for three years - the employer duty to ensure crane operator competency for construction work, from November 10, 2014, to November 10, 2017. OSHA is also extending the enforcement date for crane operator certification by three years from November 10, 2014, to November 10, 2017

Connecticut continues to lead the county in the crane industry by being out in front of the current changes. The Connecticut State Crane Board has already approved new categories for type and capacity of cranes (required by OSHA) and along with the Fire Marshalls office, has created and approved tests for all of the new and existing categories. The retest practical test is posted online at The Department of Construction Services site and testing has already begun. By extending the date a comfortable and convenient pace can be maintained in testing all applicants.

All of Connecticut's license tests meet OSHA's criteria for testing. The domains that must be incorporated in the tests are listed in OSHA 1926 subpart cc. This requirement makes for a comprehensive test. Extending the date would give Connecticut's crane industry employers and the men and women operators more time to become proficient. Once again I would like to ask the support of the committee of the substitute language for SB 291 that you have before you. Thank you for your time.


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