

Public Safety and Security Committee

Testimony with regard to SB 289 AN ACT CONCERNING DUTIES OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My Name is Dwight Carlson I have been installing electrical equipment in residential, commercial and industrial applications for more than 30 years. I currently hold a Masters Electrician's License and an Electrical Inspectors license in the State of Connecticut.

I am sending this testimony to support SB 289 An Act Concerning Duties of Building Officials. The motivation for the additional language in this Bill is the result of individuals with a building official and/or assistant building official license conducting inspections not having the qualifications/expertise in that trade discipline (electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc). The Codes and Standards Committee and the State Building Inspector have adopted regulations that establishes classes of licenses that "*recognizes the varying complexities of code enforcement*" (CGS 29-262-1(b) – 11(b)) why wouldn't we utilize these resources.

Currently individuals that obtain a building official or assistant building official license are allowed to conduct inspections without having thorough knowledge of that trade discipline. What makes sense is that the individuals that obtain a BO or ABO license should direct the appropriate class of license (i.e. CGS 29-262-1(b) – 11(b)) to conduct the actual inspections. With 3 to 5 years of general knowledge as required to obtain BO or ABO class license, it is **reckless** to think that an individual with a general knowledge could establish if that equipment is installed safely without having thorough knowledge in that trade discipline, basically the individuals installing the work have more qualifications than the individuals inspecting the work. Additionally, by Statute, with this class of license (BO or ABO) you are **not** allowed to install the equipment but you can determine if the equipment is install correctly.

My efforts are to draw attention to the **abuse** of the BO or ABO class of license and how this license should be utilized as a leadership role providing direction for the subcategory licenses as specified in Connecticut Regulation 29-262-1(b) – 11(b).

This bill will draw attention to ensuring that the individuals are duly qualified as outlined in Connecticut Regulation CGS 29-262-1(b) – 11(b) to make these inspections in the interest of public safety.

Sincerely,

Dwight Carlson