



FOUNDATION FOR FAIR CONTRACTING OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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Transportation Committee
Public Hearing

March 5, 2014

Re: HB 5461 - An Act Concerning Revisions To Statutes Relating To The Connecticut Airport Authority

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee,

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut (FFC) is a non-profit organization created by labor and management in order to monitor all public works construction projects covered under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 31-53 and the Davis-Bacon Act. We accomplish this by reviewing public documents prepared and/or submitted by the owner and contractor(s). We focus on licensing, proper payment of prevailing wage rates, proper classification of workers and properly administered state apprenticeship standards.

The FFC represents a number of licensable trades and their contractor associations, including the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 91, the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 11, and the Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local Union 38 and Local Union 40.

The FFC opposes HB 5461 due to concerns with Section 4. Section 20-340

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to: (19) persons employed by the Connecticut Airport Authority.

The FFC knows what kind of extensive training goes into a worker's ability to perform electrical work, plumbing and piping work, HVAC and sheet metal work, elevator installation, repair and maintenance work, and flat glass work. In order for the Department of Consumer Protection's Occupational Licensing Boards to approve an applicant's request to take a license examination, the applicant must prove that they have completed a certified apprenticeship program, and that they have performed the required number of hours in that specific field.

To bypass the Department of Labor's apprenticeship standards and the Occupational Licensing Board's authority sends the wrong message to Connecticut's construction workforce. Not only would this proposed legislation create unsafe worksites for those performing the scopes of work referenced above, but chipping away at licensing standards also creates potentially catastrophic outcomes for patrons of our airports. Would you want to get onto an elevator or escalator that has been installed by an unlicensed worker?

Further, the licensing standards in place help to create a level playing field in a sector that has seen dramatic wage violations and numerous attempts to circumvent laws. When a contractor or worker holds a license in a trade, it lets us know that they have been trained for a number of years in that field. Our licensing laws are one additional safeguard to unscrupulous companies willing to cut corners in order to win the ever enduring race to the bottom.

HB 5461 is poor policy. We strongly urge this committee to vote no, and keep this proposed legislation from going any further.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Glassman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimberly Glassman
Director