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To: **Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee**
From: **Larry Vallieres, President, State-Wide Electric, Inc.**
Date: **March 5, 2014**
Re: **Opposition to HB-5461, Section 4,**
"AAC Revisions to Statutes Relating to the Connecticut Airport Authority"

As a long-time licensed electrician in the state of Connecticut, member of the Independent Electrical Contractors of New England, and Chairman of the state Electrical Work Examining Board, I respectfully ask members of the Transportation Committee delete the proposed changes in Section 4 (line 189) of House Bill, 5461, AAC Revisions to Statutes Relating to the Connecticut Airport Authority. This unnecessary change circumvents existing law by creating a statutory exemption from the state's well-established occupational licensing laws for employees of the Connecticut Airport Authority.

Strong enforcement of the state's existing occupational licensing and apprenticeship laws relative to electrical work is clearly a life safety issue. Shoddy work done by unlicensed individuals can result in faulty electrical wires and improper grounding of wires, among other issues, which could cause fires that could destroy property and take lives. By ensuring that individuals performing electrical work are held to high standards, statewide licensing requirements help maintain the highest possible level of safety and training for our industry. In addition, men and women who have spent their entire careers first as an apprentice, then a journeyman, and finally a contractor, dedicated to the electrical trade, as well as other respective trades, have earned their occupational licenses by meeting standardized requirements attesting to their expertise, competency, and most importantly, knowledge and skills necessary to ensure public safety.

Creating another blanket exemption from occupational licensing laws for a class of individuals who will be performing complex work at and around our state's airports sets bad precedent and could jeopardize public safety. The more exemptions that are created, the more the entire licensing system breaks down.

Again, I respectfully urge you to oppose and delete Section 4 of HB-5461. Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.