



Connecticut Chapter

Testimony by Chris Syrek, Vice President of
Associated Builders & Contractors

Before the Public Safety and Security Committee on March 4, 2014

SB 291 An Act Concerning Crane Operations

Good afternoon, my name is Chris Syrek; I am the Vice President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut (CT ABC). CT ABC is a statewide trade association of almost 200 members that represents merit shop contractors.

CT ABC would like to voice our support for SB 291, An Act Concerning Crane Operations, with the substitute language you have before you. In fact, we are not aware of a single industry stakeholder that doesn't adamantly support this bill.

It is in the best interest of the state, the construction industry, and the crane operators who rely on their crane license to earn a living, that the deadline for crane operators to pass a written and practical test be moved from October 2014 until October 2017.

Federal OSHA, even with their vast resources, found both legal and logistical challenges in implementing the test and making sure that operators were having their licenses renewed in a timely manner. It would be complicated for the Department of Public Safety and its lone Crane Inspector to administer the test and reissue licenses in time for the originally imposed October, 2014 deadline.

This could also raise major safety concerns. Given the Department of Public Safety's limited resources, it would shift the focus of the Crane Inspector entirely to administering tests and renewing licenses instead of inspecting cranes and ensuring that each crane is safe to be operating on job sites.

There is also the possibility that during their review of the crane testing requirements, that Federal OSHA could further change these requirements or change the deadline again. Connecticut should mirror the federal law and move the testing deadline to October of 2017, while the federal regulations are being reconsidered.