

# **The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

## **Testimony to the General Law Committee**

### **In Support of HB 6808 An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes**

**February 24th, 2015**

To Senator Leone, Representative Baram, and members of the General Law committee, I am writing on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in support of HB 6808, An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Certain Occupational Licensing Statutes.

The IBEW represents nearly 6,000 licensed electrical journeymen and apprentices in the State of Connecticut. We take pride in our training and apprenticeship programs, and our top priorities are safety and integrity of our workforce. The IBEW has three representatives on the Electrical Work Examining Board within the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), thus we are active participants in the efforts of the board and the DCP to enforce Connecticut's occupational licensing laws and regulations.

The IBEW continuously supports measures to increase enforcement efforts within DCP. We would like to thank Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz and this committee for the passage of PA 14-210, which was a strong first step to enhance transparency related to licensing complaints that are investigated and resolved by the Department. We were pleased to see the report which outlined some details of the 303 complaints that the Department processed in calendar year 2014. In future reports, we would welcome more detail regarding the nature of the resolutions. Additionally, as we understood the report, it seemed very few complaints were coming to the occupational examining boards for review and input. We suggest that increased involvement by the occupational work boards related to processing and investigating complaints would provide added benefits to the work of the Department in this area, as the boards are made up of individuals who hold licenses specific to their trade and understand the nature of the work first hand.

Vigorous enforcement of Connecticut's occupational licensing laws is of utmost importance to workers, consumers, and regulators. Diligent enforcement and strong penalties for violations of licensing laws are necessary to ensure quality work and a responsible workforce. This legislation would require the issuance of a stop work order which, when used appropriately, can act as a deterrent and help to ensure compliance with licensing laws.

The IBEW would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussions related to this legislation or any efforts to strengthen Connecticut's licensing enforcement laws and procedures. We again thank Rep. Aresimowicz and the committee for taking this important issue into consideration.

Sean Daly, President, IBEW Local 90