

Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing

March 8, 2016

Testimony of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Regarding SB 388 An Act Concerning The Department of Administrative Services' Recommendations regarding the Adoption of the State Building and Fire Codes

Representative Dargan, Senator Larson, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Paul Costello and I am submitting testimony in support of SB 388 An Act Concerning the Department of Administrative Services' Recommendations Regarding the Adoption of the State Building and Fire Codes.

This is not a new concept and there have been many bills before the Committee in recent years regarding code adoption in the State. We, along with other tradespeople, have been frustrated over the years with the delay in revising CT's building codes to keep up with national standards.

The Department of Administrative Services has identified obstacles within the current process that have historically delayed the adoption process. The changes they propose will streamline the process without sacrificing a thorough review of all recognized codes. The subject matter experts on the Codes and Standards Committee will continue to review and act on any proposed changes, additions, or deletions to the State Building Code. There will still be the opportunity for the public to review and make proposals or comments to any of the Codes being revised.

The current long and tedious process delays the adoption of nationally recognized building and fire codes. Most of these codes have been revised on a national level at least once before we even complete our state revision.

The example I am most familiar with is that of the NEC (National Electrical Code). The next revision to the State Building Code that is currently being revised includes updating to the 2014 NEC. The 2017 NEC has already been through two draft revisions and will be voted on in June and be available for adoption in September of this year. By the time our State Building Code is adopted the 2014 NEC will already be out of date. This is also true of the other related codes.

We feel there are safety concerns with using outdated codes. There have been numerous changes to code requirements for new technology especially in the renewable energy sector. Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ's) are faced with the challenges of inspecting photovoltaic installations, wind turbines, and electric vehicle charging stations that are constantly improving in technology.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Paul Costello
IBEW Local 90