



Government Affairs Office

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**Statement of the National Elevator Industry, Inc.  
in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 388, An Act Concerning The Department of  
Administrative Services' Recommendations Regarding The Adoption of The  
State Building and Fire Codes.**

**March 8, 2016**

Chairman Larson, Chairman Dargan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bruce Horne, and I am the North American Operations Codes Manager for Otis Elevator, and I live and work in the State of Connecticut. I am also a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A17 Elevator and Escalator Committee, where I actively participate in the development of the international model safety codes for building transportation equipment.

I am here today testifying on behalf of Otis Elevator and the National Elevator Industry (NEII®) in support of Senate Bill 388, An Act Concerning The Department of Administrative Services' Recommendations Regarding The Adoption of The State Building and Fire Codes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of this bill.

Currently, updating the State Building Codes and the Safety Codes for Elevators and Escalators requires legislative authority before more recent versions of the international model codes can be adopted. NEII® understands that Senate Bill 388 would modify Section 29-252 of the state's general statutes so that the State Building Code is no longer required to comply with the rulemaking requirements set forth under Chapter 54 – in short, removing the legislative oversight for code updates. NEII® strongly supports this bill and, if the adoption of the safety codes for elevators and escalators is not specifically covered, Senate Bill 388 should be amended to specifically apply to these code updates as well.

Currently, Connecticut has the oldest version of the international model code in effect for any state in the country. One of the hurdles to updating the building transportation codes in Connecticut has been the legislative authority aspect of the regulatory development process. It is imperative that Connecticut remove this procedural obstacle so that more current safety standards can be readily adopted, providing improved safety for the citizens of our state on a consistent basis.

The most effective way of ensuring the safety of the riding public, as well as elevator personnel, is by the adoption of the latest version of the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 Safety Code for

Elevators and Escalators and related standards. This state-of-the-art code is widely used throughout North America and is updated regularly, with a new edition published every three years. ASME A17.1/CSA B44 represents the optimum in safety, as it is developed and refined by hundreds of experienced experts representing all aspects of the elevator industry. Such expertise is drawn from enforcing authorities, mechanical and electrical engineering and design experts, inspectors, consultants, labor authorities, building and facility owners, and installation and maintenance specialists.

The code development process consists of a thorough consensus-building protocol, which invites examination of proposed code language and the opportunity to submit comments and/or suggests modifications related to such language. The process also includes the opportunity for a thorough public review of any proposed language. In view of the thoroughness of the process, all issues are examined in-depth, with any pitfalls or shortcomings being addressed fully prior to publication. It is important to note that particular attention is given to requirements for acceptance, periodic inspection and ongoing maintenance. Requirements in these areas are continuously assessed and modified as needed to ensure the highest levels of safety.

Adoption of the most recent version of the ASME A17.1/CSA B44 code without modification ensures a uniform high level of safety throughout North America and eliminates conflicts to other adopted national standards published by International Code Council (ICC), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and others. Specifically, the 2013 edition of ASME A17.1/CSA B44 code reflects alignment without conflict to IBC 2015 and NFPA 70 (National Electrical code - NEC) 2014. The current codes adopted in Connecticut, however, have significant conflicts to other codes (see table below), creating uncertainty, confusion and undue burden on inspectors to make the determination as to which is the appropriate code to enforce compliance.

<b>National Code Year Alignment Without Conflict</b>		
AMSE A17.1/CSA B44 (Yr)	ICC IBC (International Building Code)	NFPA 70 (NEC) National Electric Code
2013	2015	2014
2010	2012	2011
2007	2009	2008
<b>Current National Code Years Adopted by Connecticut</b>		
<b>1998</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2011</b>

NEII® encourages states to auto-adopt the updated ASME A17.1/CSA B44 codes as they are published every three years. This approach will ensure the state codes operate without conflicting requirements, and auto-adoption can save critical time and resources so that the state authority can focus on inspections, permitting and other program functions.

Currently, twenty states have adopted the 2013 version of the elevator and escalator safety codes - six of which adopted the latest codes automatically. Sixteen states, Puerto Rico

and Washington, DC have adopted the 2010 edition, with four in the process of updating their codes to the 2013 edition and one looking to switch to an auto-adopt process. Twelve states have adopted the 2007 edition of the code, with seven in the process of updating to a more recent version. Six states, including Connecticut, follow an older version of the elevator and escalator safety codes, with five of them in the process of updating to the 2013 version – Connecticut is the outlying because of its unique and very challenging rulemaking process. Within a year, Connecticut will likely have elevator and escalator safety codes that are twenty years behind the state of the art safety standards unless the state adopts SB 388 (with language ensuring its application to elevator and escalator codes as well) and removes the barriers to updating these important provisions.

NEII® is committed to working with the Connecticut Legislature and is available to answer any questions and/or provide any assistance on the safety codes for our industry as needed. We encourage your committee to support Senate Bill 388. And, if the adoption of the safety codes for elevators and escalators is not specifically covered, we ask that you adopt amending language so that the bill specifically applies to these code updates as well. Senate Bill 388 is a critical step to ensuring the safety of both the riding public and elevator industry workers in the State of Connecticut.

Please feel free to contact me at 860-676-5335 or via email at [bruce.horne@otsi.com](mailto:bruce.horne@otsi.com) or Amy Blankenbiller, the NEII® Director of Government Affairs, by phone at 785-286-7599 or via e-mail at [ajblankenbiller@neii.org](mailto:ajblankenbiller@neii.org) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important industry issue.

*NEII® is the premier national trade association representing the interest of firms that install, maintain and/or manufacture elevators, escalators, moving walks and other building transportation products. The NEII® membership includes the top elevator companies in the United States, if not the world, and reports more than eighty percent of the work hours for the industry. Member companies include: Otis Elevator Company, Schindler Elevator Corp., ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation, KONE, Inc., and many other companies. Safety for the riding public and industry personnel is a top priority for the industry and the NEII® member companies.*