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International Union of Elevator Constructors  
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee  
Written Testimony in Support of HB 2356  
March 12, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my remarks in support of HB 2356. This law is supported by both employers and employees in the elevator industry.

The purpose of HB 2356 is to protect life and limb of the riding public and to promote public safety awareness. In addition this law will protect the men and women who install and maintain this type of equipment.

The use of unsafe and defective lifting devices imposes a substantial probability of serious and preventable injury to employees and the public exposed to unsafe conditions. The prevention of these injuries and protection of employees and the public from unsafe conditions is in the best interest of the people of this state. Elevator personnel performing work covered by this law shall by documented training or experience or both, be familiar with the operation and safety functions of the components and equipment. Training and experience shall include, but not be limited to, recognizing the safety hazards and performing the procedures to which they are assigned in conformance with the requirements of the Code. This Chapter shall establish the minimum standards for elevator personnel.

Passage of this bill will dramatically reduce accidents and deaths of elevator personnel and the public. This legislation was assembled using language from existing elevator safety laws from Coast to Coast and many states in between.

Some of the language in this legislation is technical and can be difficult to understand for people outside of our industry. This language relates to national standards adopted by the American

Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). ASME drafts the elevator safety codes that are designed to protect riders and workers. This legislation will help enforce these safety codes and protect the people of this state.

The Elevator Industry is undergoing rapid technological advancements that will result in increased requirements. Our Industry will continue to require highly skilled professionals to install, service, maintain and test conveyances.

As technology increases and the equipment becomes more complicated it only stands to reason that those involved in the process of designing, manufacturing, installing, servicing, testing, repairing and inspecting the equipment need to have the education and training necessary to work on the equipment.

In most states a person needs to be licensed to cut hair or apply tattoos, unfortunately those same requirements do not apply to the elevator industry. Most people do not realize that there is a specialized and highly trained industry that works on elevators until the equipment breaks or there is an accident. Industry experts agree using qualified persons to perform elevator industry work will reduce and prevent accidents.

Through training and education requirements this legislation will ensure that elevator companies, inspectors and mechanics are responsible, highly trained and highly skilled. HB 2356 will adopt the most current elevator safety codes that are designed to protect riders. This legislation will require mechanics to complete continuing education courses related to safety and ASME code issues. Currently mechanics in Kansas are not required to complete any continuing education classes.

I ask you to look favorably on this legislation and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.