



June 9, 2016

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), an organization that represents nearly 200 PA businesses and co-sponsors 14 IBEW/NECA apprenticeship programs in Pennsylvania, we urge you to oppose HB 1952, which would amend the Apprenticeship and Training Act to establish a formal ratio of one supervisory journeyman for each apprentice.

On June 14, 2016, the House Labor and Industry Committee is scheduled to vote on HB 1952, and we urge you to attend the meeting and vote "no." A change to the apprentice ratio undermines the considerations for proper training, supervision, and safety for apprenticeship programs in Pennsylvania.

Quality apprenticeship programs are essential to the construction industry. The IBEW/NECA Apprenticeship Programs spend millions each year to recruit, develop, and retain a qualified workforce for our contractors and consumers. A quality apprenticeship program ensures the successful transition into the electrical industry and increases the opportunity for employment in the electrical trade after completion.

Apprentice ratios are the number of apprentices in training that may work under the direction of a number of experienced journeymen at one time. This ratio is designed to protect apprentices' health and welfare on the job and to develop qualified journeyman electricians. Federal regulations require programs to establish a ratio of apprentices to journeymen consistent with proper supervision, training, safety, and continuity of employment. Reducing the ratio to 1:1 would increase job site risks and reduce the availability of hands-on supervision by skilled journeymen who are dedicated to the development of skilled electricians.

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our government affairs coordinators, Joelle Salerno (412-722-9438, jnsalerno@wpaneca.com) of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter or Helen Levins (267-804-0151, hlevins@neca-pdj.org) of the Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad M. Jones".

Chad M. Jones
Executive Director
NECA, Western PA Chapter

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey P. Scarpello".

Jeffrey P. Scarpello
Executive Director
NECA, Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter