

Testimony of John DeRosa, Business Manager of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 91 in opposition to DAS Agency Proposal 11122020_DAS_3rd Party Cert.

Chairs, Vice Chairs and Ranking Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in fervent opposition to the above-captioned proposal of the Department of Administrative Services.

It is unnecessary to fulfill the Department's statutory obligation to inspect and certify the safety of all elevators, escalators, moving walkways, conveyor systems, construction lifts etc. It also creates an unnecessary fiscal burden upon the State of Connecticut. Most importantly it will endanger the safety of the general public.

The bill would seek to basically mothball its existing inspectors, ultimately having them go out of existence. It would then seek to create outside business entities which would assume the state's obligations for safety inspections and certification, while at the same time create an auditing unit within DAS that would duplicate the inspection services already provided by DAS employees who are fully trained and qualified elevator constructors and repair professionals. Nebulous standards would be established by the Department for these outside entities and the new auditors would ensure that these yet unknown standards are enforced.

These provisions are unnecessary, costly and will not serve the ultimate duty of the state to protect the public from harm while using the above enumerated devices.

There is no need for these elaborate new state-created private and auditing mechanisms. There is no backlog for new construction inspections. The backlog for subsequent inspections is normal and rapidly eliminated by the existing inspectors. We fully expect that DAS to say there are not enough qualified inspectors in the Department. This is a self-fulfilling prophecy due to the Department's own negligence in not seeking new inspectors since 2017. Also, we would note, that if there are not enough inspectors on staff how does DAS expect to fill these new private entities. What would be the incentive? The only incentive we can assume is for more lax levels of enforcement to be promoted by the contractors who will be using said entities. Would the proposed auditors serve merely as first responders to the inevitable accidents and mayhem caused to the public?

This is potentially extremely costly solution in search of a problem. Simply post for additional inspectors within DAS. Each inspector hired generates income for the State of Connecticut and further the most important interest: the protection of the public's safety.

Respectfully submitted,

John DeRosa, Local 91 IUEC, 914 Main Street, suite 203, East Hartford, CT 06108

860-289-8589