



# LOCAL 478 • CONNECTICUT

## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

1965 Dixwell Avenue • Hamden, Connecticut 06514

**Testimony of Garry Gyenizs in Opposition to HB no. 6445: “An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Occupations Licensed by the Department of Consumer Protection”.**

**February 23, 2021.**

Good afternoon Co-Chairs D’Agostino and Maroney, Ranking Members Witkos and Rutigliano, and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee:

My name is Garry Gyenizs, Business Manager and President of the Operating Engineers Local 478 an organization that represents nearly 3000 heavy equipment operators and support staff throughout Connecticut. I am respectfully submitting testimony in **opposition** to **HB 6445 AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.**

This bill will result in potential damage and or injuries to the consumer, installer and or end user. This bill will be a dilution of the CT Apprenticeship, CT Occupational licensing, workplace standards and CT construction safety standards.

The construction industry has means, methods, codes and standards that vary from state to state. It varies largely region by region due to climate and codes which significantly effects the procedure in which specific tasks in our industry are performed.

This bill would have an adverse effect of crushing economic opportunity for competent highly trained licensed skilled building trades’ workers. There is no need to rush untrained or undertrained workers into a Connecticut construction job market that already cannot offer skilled construction jobs currently to the residents that live here.

The Building Trades pride themselves on attracting the most qualified workers who pass through years of training and re-training, apprenticeship and accomplishment which assures the citizens of Connecticut that the buildings they enter, the roads, bridges and highways they pass on are built with the competency and trusted resources of Connecticut’s construction industry.

This bill will encourage contractors who often have no intention of paying an area standard wages and flood the State with undertrained out-of-state workers taking jobs from residents that built it.

Thanks,

Garry Gyenizs  
Business Manager / President  
Operating Engineers Local 478