



January 23, 2024

Subject: LD 2133 - H.P. 1357 Sec. 3. 32 MRSA 1202-B, sub-3, B

To whom it may concern,

As the Director of the United Technologies Center, I am writing to lend my wholehearted support to the concerns raised by our esteemed Electrical Instructor regarding the proposed LD 2133 - H.P. 1357 Sec. 3. 32 MRSA 1202-B, sub-3, B.

Having carefully reviewed the detailed opposition articulated by our CTE Electrical Instructor and the valuable input from our Advisory Committee, comprised of industry representatives from Carmel Electric, Hampden Electric, Gifford Electric, Duffy's Electric, IBEW Local Union, and Cianbro, I am aligned with their unanimous stance against the bill.

The collective wisdom and expertise of our Advisory Committee, which includes owners of prominent Electrical Contracting companies and key figures in the industry, provide a crucial perspective on the potential implications of this proposed legislation.

I would like to emphasize and elaborate on some of the key points raised in our instructor's opposition letter:

- **Safety Concerns:** The safety implications of allowing individuals with insufficient training to work in high-risk electrical scenarios cannot be overstated. Our industry experts have consistently voiced concerns about potential hazards, including arc flashes and electrocution, which may result from inadequate training.
- **Training Requirements:** Achieving competency in electrical installations requires comprehensive training well beyond the proposed 2000 hrs. The diverse nature of electrical work, from residential to industrial settings, necessitates a robust training program to ensure the safety and competence of aspiring electricians.
- **Maintaining Industry Standards:** Lowering the required work experience hours to 1000 hrs. with credit of 1000 hrs. for attending a CTE program for licensure may compromise the high standards we currently maintain in our state. This could potentially impact our reciprocity agreements with other states and undermine the overall credibility of licensed electricians from Maine.
- **Cost Implications:** Granting a Journeyman license prematurely may result in increased costs for employers without a corresponding level of experience from the licensed individual. This could have adverse effects on the growth of the private sector and artificially elevate labor costs.
- **Mismatched Expectations:** Allowing our CTE students to obtain a JIT license with insufficient experience may lead to a gap between expectations and capabilities. This mismatch can result in safety hazards, mistakes, and a sense of inadequacy among those entering the electrical trade. Having time in the trade and working environment will align with the already existing opportunities with community college and the Department of Corrections JIT pathway.

I am proud of the rigorous and academically sound program we have developed at United Technologies Center under the guidance of our dedicated Electrical Instructor. With his 25 years of personal experience in the electrical industry, I stand by the belief that a minimum of 4,000 hours of supervised training is essential to produce competent and capable Journeyman-In-Training Electricians.

In conclusion, I urge careful consideration of the valid concerns raised by our instructor and the members of our Advisory Committee. Their insights reflect a collective commitment to upholding the highest standards within the electrical industry. I trust that, in your capacity, you will prioritize the safety, training, and expertise of individuals entering this critical profession. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Peterson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amanda Peterson
Director
United Technologies Center