



April 9, 2018

Honorable Ron Young
Chairman,
Economic Development,
Commerce and Labor Committee
77 S. High St
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: NEII Support for H.B. 236

Dear Chairman and members of the Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee,

On behalf of the National Elevator Industry, Inc. (NEII), please receive this letter as support for H.B. 236, the Model Elevator Act.

Safety for the riding public and for those working on elevator equipment is the singular top priority for NEII and its member companies, who install, maintain, and/or manufacture elevators, escalators, and other related products throughout Ohio. NEII and its member companies, which include such global leaders as KONE, Inc., Otis Elevator Company, Schindler Elevator Corp., ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation and others, encourage you to support H.B. 236, which outlines basic licensing requirements for elevator mechanics.

The intent with this legislation is to promote the safe installation, maintenance and repair of elevator and escalator equipment by licensing elevator mechanics in accordance with national standards. Elevator equipment is very complex and highly technical. It is paramount that work done on elevators and related equipment is completed by mechanics who demonstrate a fundamental competency and annually update their knowledge to the most current rules and procedures.

The licensing requirements set forth in H.B. 236 are not exclusionary. There are both union [the National Elevator Industry Education Program (NEIEP)] and non-union [the National Association of Elevator Contractor's (NAEC) Certified Elevator Technician (CET)] programs that are nationally accredited. NEII and NAEC, who collectively represent well over 90% of the industry, have members whose mechanics have been trained by both programs, even in states where mechanic licenses are not required. The most prominent safety risk to both the public and other industry personnel is when companies can employ mechanics who are not required to show proof they have received appropriate education and training. Every industry worker, reputable elevator company and state official should welcome these minimum requirements to establish a baseline of competency and safety.

Currently, the elevator industry is an outlier in Ohio as the state already administers licenses for several other life safety industries. Therefore, it makes sense for conveyance devices to be included under a similar regulatory scheme as those other industries. The regulatory framework is already in

place to incorporate an elevator program under the jurisdiction of the Division of Industrial Compliance and is written specifically in accordance with established state laws.

H.B. 236 is a reasonable approach for Ohio to fulfill its responsibility towards providing for the safety of its people who ride and work on elevators every day. NEII staff and company representatives are available to provide additional information and answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact me by phone (609-502-3610) or via e-mail at disenberg@neii.org. Thank you for your time and attention to this important industry issue.

Sincerely,



Dylan Isenberg
Director, Government Affairs
NEII