

Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 6
National Electrical Contractors Association
Cleveland, North Central Ohio, and Cincinnati Chapters

Chair Manchester, Vice Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee:

On behalf of the Cleveland, North Central Ohio, and Cincinnati Chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on SB 6. My name is Tom Shreves, and I serve as Government Affairs Specialist for the Greater Cleveland, North Central Ohio and Cincinnati Chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Previously I have worked as a union electrician, and owner of an electrical contracting company. I proudly served as a Seabee in the US Navy in the Vietnam War and have over 50 years' experience in the industry.

I am pleased to offer my organization's support for SB 6 which seeks to remedy a real issue in the construction industry, delayed inspection appeal times. Inspections serve a vital role in our industry, providing assurances of safety for our customers and the public, in the case of larger commercial projects. Inspections are a critical step in the construction process and are not a simple check of a box.

Recently, in Northeast Ohio, we have seen a city lose its inspection program due to heavy handed inspectors. We have also seen a county building program investigated by the state for similar practices. Clearly some consumer protections are in order.

Senator Roegner has put forward a simple and straightforward solution in this legislation. Allowing the owners of construction projects to request an expedited appeal ensures that they will have their day in

court to advance their project. The bill does not guarantee a positive outcome for the owner. Indeed, if there are deficiencies in the project, the appeal will almost certainly fail. Rather, SB 6 makes sure that construction projects are not arbitrarily stalled due to slow or delayed inspections or follow up inspections.

We thank Senator Roegner for introducing SB 6 and urge the committee's support.