

Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill 196
National Electrical Contractors Association
Cleveland Chapter

Chairman Rulli, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee:

On behalf of the Cleveland Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on SB 196. My name is Tom Shreves, and I serve as Executive Director of the Chapter. 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 40 years' experience in the industry.

I am pleased to offer our support for SB 196 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 SB 196. 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 196 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 196 and urge the committee's support.