

☞ **07hr_sb0167_SC-CUR_pt01**



Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Commerce, Utilities and Rail
(SC-CUR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- *Committee Reports ... CR*
- *Executive Sessions ... ES*
- *Public Hearings ... PH*
- *Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP*

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- *Appointments ... Appt*
- *Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule*
- *Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions*
(ab = Assembly Bill) (ar = Assembly Resolution) (ajr = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(sb = Senate Bill) (sr = Senate Resolution) (sfr = Senate Joint Resolution)
- *Miscellaneous ... Misc*

Vote Record

Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail

Date: 10/24/07

Moved by: Unanimous Consent Seconded by: _____

AB _____ SB 167 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1 _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrency

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Roger Breske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Cowles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Sheila Harsdorf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Neal Kedzie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>UC</u>	_____	_____	_____

X
 X
 X
 X
 X
 X
 X
 X

Hansen Adop
Wirch 2nd

Motion Carried Motion Failed

Vote Record Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail

Date: 10/24/2007

Moved by: UC Seconded by: _____

AB _____ SB 167 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

3
 A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 - Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Roger Breske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Wirch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Hansen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Robert Cowles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Sheila Harsdorf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Neal Kedzie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>UC</u>	_____	_____	_____



Capital Lock, Inc.

Locksmithing • Commercial • Residential • Auto • Safes • Fire Files • Consulting • 24 Hour Emergency Service

May 14, 2007

State Senator John Erpenbach
Room 8 South State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Erpenbach:

I recently became aware of SB167 relating to the licensing of electrical contractors and various types of electricians. As a constituent of yours, and since you are a sponsor of this legislation, I am writing to you with my concerns.

As a business owner with twenty-five years experience in the electronic security and fire alarm business, I am concerned that this legislation will adversely affect me, my employees, my peers and our customers. My concern is that this bill might result in my industry being regulated along with the electrical contracting industry.

I applaud the basic intent of this legislation and feel it is long overdue. However, the "high voltage" electrical contracting industry and the "low voltage" electronic security and life safety industries are very different and should not be guided by the same rules and regulations.

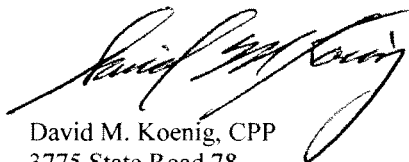
I understand that SB167 as originally drafted exempts persons who work with 50 volts or less, and persons engaged in installing, repairing or maintaining an electronic system designed to monitor a premises for the presence of an emergency. However, the exemptions do not appear to exempt an electronic security and life safety business from the licensure required under 101.862(1).

To clarify the separation between "high voltage" contractors and "low voltage" contractors, I would ask that you seek to add an amendment to SB167 that would exempt my industry and read as follows:

A person, or business engaged in design, installation, erection, repair, or alteration of Class I, II, or III remote control, signaling or power-limited circuits, electronic security circuits, audio or video circuits, low voltage fire alarm circuits, optical fiber cables or communication circuits, including raceways, as defined by the National Electrical Code.

Our industry is not adverse to the concept of licensing and regulation; however, to be included with the "high voltage" electrical contracting industry would do harm to our existing businesses and increase costs unnecessarily to consumers. I suspect that other low voltage industries might feel the same. I ask that you respond back to me with your thoughts and questions.

Regards,



David M. Koenig, CPP
3775 State Road 78
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
Email: david.koenig@capitallock.com
Cell: 608-513-5625

Cc: Sen. Jeff Plale
Chair Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail

1302 Regent Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53715
P.O. Box 258156, Madison, Wisconsin 53725
(608)256-LOCK(5625) / Fax: (608)255-6977





SENATE AMENDMENT, /
TO 2007 SENATE BILL 167

9-21-07

By Senator Decker.

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 **1.** Page 6, line 1: delete "or distributing" and substitute "distributing, or
3 controlling heat, light, power, or natural gas".

4 **2.** Page 6, line 2: delete "electricity".

5 **3.** Page 9, line 5: substitute "**licensing**" for "**regulatory**".

6 **4.** Page 9, line 9: delete "without being amended or repealed".

7 **5.** Page 9, line 11: after "date]" insert ", but may not be amended or repealed
8 during this time period".

9 **6.** Page 9, line 13: after "effect" insert ", and municipalities may no longer
10 impose any registration, licensing, or certification requirements on electrical
11 contractors, electricians, or electrical inspectors".

12 **7.** Page 9, line 24: substitute "(1) to (3)" for "(2) and (3)".

1 **8.** Page 10, line 10: substitute "100" for "50".

2 **9.** Page 11, line 3: delete lines 3 to 5 and substitute:

3 "(i) A person employed by an electricity provider, or a subcontractor of an
4 electricity provider, who installs, repairs, or maintains electrical wiring for
5 equipment that is installed in the normal course of providing utility services by the
6 electricity provider."

7 **10.** Page 11, line 8: delete "electrical wiring" and substitute "electric lines".

8 **11.** Page 11, line 10: after that line insert:

9 "(L) A person employed by an electricity provider, or a subcontractor of an
10 electricity provider, who installs, repairs, or maintains primary voltage electric
11 facilities that are owned by the electricity provider's customers or members and that
12 operate at greater than 600 volts.

13 (m) A person employed by an electricity provider, or a subcontractor of an
14 electricity provider, who restores service during an emergency."

15 **12.** Page 11, line 11: delete lines 11 and 12.

16 (END)



IBEW LOCAL UNION 2150
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
N56W13777 SILVER SPRING DRIVE MENOMONEE FALLS, WI 53051-6127
262-252-2552 * 800-551-1151 * FAX 262-703-3520
DANIEL E. SHERMAN, BUSINESS MANAGER

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: 9-25-07TO: Katy VenskwFROM: Forrest Ceel 414-218-1168NO. OF PAGES (Including cover page): 2

NOTES: Katy, I plan on testifying in
support of AB294 at the hearing
at 11AM this Thursday. But I am
also serving on the Global ~~W~~ Warming
Task Force and there is a generation workshop
meeting that day. I hope to sneak away
from the G-WTF meeting and submit this
testimony.

Thank you,

Forrest Ceel



IBEW LOCAL UNION 2150
 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
 N56W13777 Silver Spring Drive Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-6127
 262-252-2552 FAX 262-703-3520 800-551-1151

www.ibewlocal2150.org

DANIEL F. SHERMAN
Business Manager

September 25, 2007

Forrest Ceel
 President/Business Rep.
 262-252-2552 ext. 223

Utility Workers Support Electrical Safety

Local Union 2150 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is calling on the State Legislature to complete the pathway for electrical safety in Wisconsin. While Local 2150 is the largest electrical worker union in Wisconsin, our labor organization does not represent anyone who would be licensed as a result of this very important safety legislation. Our members provide power to the state's residents at the generation phase of the process (coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, and wind power), the transmission system that moves power to where it is needed throughout the state, and the local distribution level to your neighborhoods, farms, and businesses.

Our 4,500 members mostly work in regulated environments governed by such agencies as the Public Service Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, or other state and local oversight entities. The power plants and local utilities and their employees work under rigorous standards to ensure that power is delivered safely and reliably. The weak spot regarding quality and safety is the final part of the electrons journey to your lights, appliances, and equipment.

Once power is passed through your meter at reduced voltage from distribution lines it still remains dangerous. It is crucial that a person who is not only competent and well trained can show proof to the consumer backing up that claim to install wiring in your house, farm buildings, business equipment, or this building. Currently, no such proof of competency is required. In fact, any one of us in this room could head over to the hardware store, buy tools and materials and start up our own electrical contracting business; perhaps putting the general public at risk. While this bill still protects the homeowner to weigh the risks wiring his own residence, it rightfully determines that the person you've hired to perform electrical work be licensed as proof of competency.

Caveat Emptor, as a free market slogan, does little good for children burned as a result of an electrical fire in their home. Again, as a labor organization that prides itself in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power, we call on the legislature to complete the pathway of safety for the citizens of Wisconsin by passing companion bills AB294 & SB167.

si/opeiu/local 9







IBEW LOCAL UNION 2150
 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
 N56W13777 Silver Spring Drive Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-6127
 262-252-2552 FAX 262-703-3520 800-551-1151

www.ibewlocal2150.org

DANIEL E. SHERMAN
Business Manager

September 25, 2007

Forrest Ceel
 President/Business Rep.
 262-252-2552 ext. 223

Utility Workers Support Electrical Safety

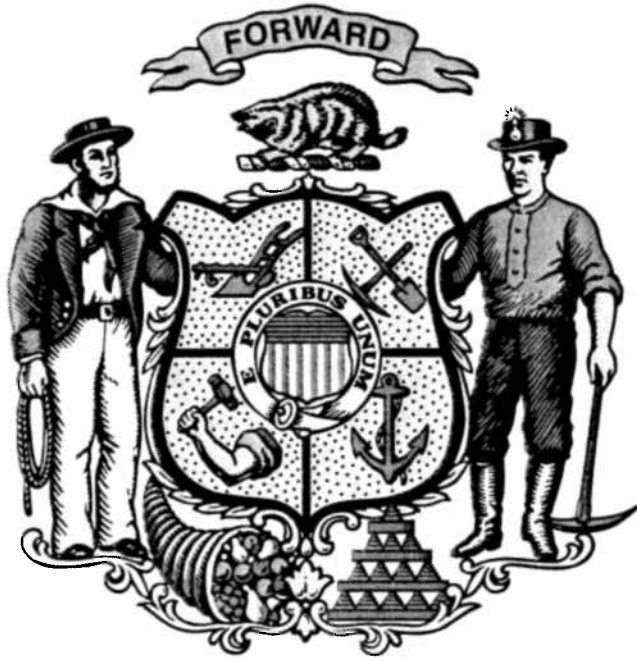
Local Union 2150 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is calling on the State Legislature to complete the pathway for electrical safety in Wisconsin. While Local 2150 is the largest electrical worker union in Wisconsin, our labor organization does not represent anyone who would be licensed as a result of this very important safety legislation. Our members provide power to the state's residents at the generation phase of the process (coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, and wind power), the transmission system that moves power to where it is needed throughout the state, and the local distribution level to your neighborhoods, farms, and businesses.

Our 4,500 members mostly work in regulated environments governed by such agencies as the Public Service Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, or other state and local oversight entities. The power plants and local utilities and their employees work under rigorous standards to ensure that power is delivered safely and reliably. The weak spot regarding quality and safety is the final part of the electrons journey to your lights, appliances, and equipment.

Once power is passed through your meter at reduced voltage from distribution lines it still remains dangerous. It is crucial that a person who is not only competent and well trained can show proof to the consumer backing up that claim to install wiring in your house, farm buildings, business equipment, or this building. Currently, no such proof of competency is required. In fact, any one of us in this room could head over to the hardware store, buy tools and materials and start up our own electrical contracting business; perhaps putting the general public at risk. While this bill still protects the homeowner to weigh the risks wiring his own residence, it rightfully determines that the person you've hired to perform electrical work be licensed as proof of competency.

Caveat Emptor, as a free market slogan, does little good for children burned as a result of an electrical fire in their home. Again, as a labor organization that prides itself in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power, we call on the legislature to complete the pathway of safety for the citizens of Wisconsin by passing companion bills AB294 & SB167.

sl/opei/local 9





Wisconsin Utilities Association
44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 202
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

To: Wisconsin Legislature

**From: Bill Skewes, Executive Director
Wisconsin Utilities Association**

Re: SB 81 Testimony

Date: September 25, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Skewes', is written over the 'From:' line of the header.

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Bill Skewes and I am the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Utilities Association (WUA), representing Wisconsin's investor-owned gas and electric utilities. We appreciate the opportunity to testify today in opposition to SB 81 which, among other things, seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 to 1990 levels.

The Wisconsin Utilities Association (WUA), urges you to consider a number of important factors involved in this truly global issue before forwarding any climate change legislation. WUA's member companies clearly recognize the growing concerns regarding the threat of climate change and, in fact, our industry has led all other industrial sectors in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Through various programs and mechanisms such as the Wisconsin Voluntary Early Emission Reduction Registry, that commitment continues.

No matter what the ultimate path is, success in that mission – while maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable electricity supply – will require an aggressive and sustained commitment by the industry and policymakers to the development and deployment of a full suite of technology options, including:

- An intensified national commitment to energy efficiency, including advanced efficiency technologies and new regulatory models;
- Accelerated development and cost effective deployment of demand-side management technologies and renewable energy resources; and
- Advanced clean coal technologies.

Although some of these options are currently available – albeit at a higher cost than conventional generation sources – many are not. All have different time horizons but all are critical to the dual goals of addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and maintaining a reliable, affordable electricity supply in a carbon-constrained world. In addition, because of the national and more importantly global nature of the issue, solutions are best considered at the federal level and should, in fact, require participation of the entire world economy.

Based on policy principles of the national energy industry as a whole, WUA will continue to emphasize the importance of:

- A reliable, stable and reasonably-priced electric supply to maintain the competitiveness of the Wisconsin economy;
- A fuel-diverse generation portfolio to assure system reliability, energy security and price stability; and
- Solutions compatible with a market economy that deliver timely and reasonably priced greenhouse gas reductions.

As policy makers at all levels consider alternatives, WUA urges the Wisconsin Legislature to await the recommendations of the Governor's Global Warming Task Force before taking further action. Many stakeholders, especially the utility sector, have invested a significant amount of time and resources participating in this effort by providing technical expertise on the working groups and the Task Force in general which has helped to inform the discussion of this important issue. Thank you.





September 26, 2007

Testimony of Jeff Graf (Technical Services Manager, AVI Midwest, LLC - Madison, WI) Regarding Wisconsin Senate Bill 167

Respectfully Submitted to the Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail (September 27, 2007)

On behalf of AVI Midwest LLC, with offices in Madison and New Berlin Wisconsin, as well as other offices throughout the Midwest and San Diego.

As introduced, Wisconsin Senate Bill 167 establishes 50 volts as the demarcation point at which a licensed electrical contractor and electricians must be utilized to install many Audio Visual systems that are currently installed by qualified low-voltage contractors in the Audio Visual industry. This will have a negative effect on many small businesses and their employees. We believe this will also cause the cost of doing business in Wisconsin to rise as a result of complicating the integration process.

The U.S. Department of Labor has recognized Electronic Systems Technicians as a separate and distinct profession. The U.S. Department of Labor's description lists the work of Electronic Systems Technicians at less than 100 volts.

Senate Amendment 1 raises the voltage level to 100 volts and therefore makes the appropriate distinction between the work of an Electronic Systems Technician and the work of an electrician. By raising the voltage level to 100 volts, Wisconsin Senate Bill 167 will allow Audio Visual integrators to continue in the practices that have proven to be successful for our industry and their employees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Graf", written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Graf
Technical Services Manager
AVI Midwest, LLC
Madison, WI 53718
608.221.8888

Your Professional Audio & Video Systems Integrator

A black and white photograph showing the interior of an AVI Midwest office. The room is filled with various pieces of audio and video equipment, including monitors, speakers, and racks of gear, arranged on desks and shelves.

FOCUSED ON YOUR SUCCESS



Fax

To: Katy Venskus **From:** Cathy Mrosko, NSCA

Fax: 608-266-7483 **Pages:** 3

Phone: 571-263-9600 **Date:** 9/26/2007

Re: Testimony for SB 167 **CC:**

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

• **Comments:** Select this text and delete it or replace it with your own. To save changes to this template for future use, choose **Save As** from the **File** menu. In the **Save As Type** box, choose **Document Template**. Next time you want to use it, choose **New** from the **File** menu, and then double-click your template.





Terra Nova, Inc.
W223 N798 Saratoga Drive, Suite A
Waukesha, WI 53186

Tel (262) 513-6800
Fax (262) 513-2030
www.terra-nova.biz

**Testimony of Chris McCanles, Company President, regarding Wisconsin Senate Bill #167 for
the Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail
September 27, 2007**

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of my company, Terra Nova Integrated Systems, Inc., in regards to Senate Bill #167, involving the regulation of electrical workers, contractors and inspectors. I am particularly concerned with Senate Amendment #1 to this bill, in which the exemption would be raised from 50 volts to 100 volts. I strongly support this change as it would protect my business and industry at large, and would allow both to work on behalf of the public in the same manner as it has for many, many years.

Terra Nova Integrated Systems, Inc. is a design/build contractor of custom electronic systems for the residential and commercial markets, specifically in the areas of audio/video, security, communications, and automation systems. We were founded in 1997, employ 23 people and are based in Waukesha, WI. Our clients include many private homeowners and public companies and entities, such as Harley-Davidson Motor Co., Marquette University, Time Warner Cable, and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Our work involves the use of electronic circuits up to 100 volts in a wide variety of situations. If Amendment #1 was to fail and this bill is passed unchanged, our business would need to change drastically, becoming an electrical contractor and re-training and licensing all of our employees working in the field. Additionally, the cost and amount of wiring and wire management materials used to build and install our systems would now greatly increase. Both of these changes would result in significant costs to our business which in turn would have to be passed on to our customers, some of which are government or non-profit entities that regularly struggle to afford the investment and maintenance costs required to have the technologies we provide.

It is important to note that the U.S. Department of Labor has recognized a distinction between the work of electrical workers and contractors and that of workers and companies like Terra Nova:

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

The U.S. Department of Labor has recognized Electronic Systems Technicians as a separate and distinct profession as part of the 21st Century Workforce Initiative.

***Occupational Title: ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN
DOT Code: 823.261-901
ONET Code: 49-2022.03***

Description:

An Electronic Systems Technician is an individual whose primary occupation is the design and/or integration, installation and field maintenance/service of:

- cabling infrastructure and products that transport low voltage (less than 100 volts) voice, video, audio and data signals in a commercial or residential premises;*
- products that capture and display or otherwise announce signals;*
- products that control signals; and*
- products that use signals to control mechanical and electrical apparatus.*

This Amendment would return the officially recognized demarcation between the work of electrical workers and Electronic Systems Technician to its traditional level of 100 Volts and would allow business and consumers to proceed with their relationship unimpeded as it has successfully done without harm to the public for many years.





16220 w. bluemound road brookfield, wi 53005 store 262.789.1195 corporate office 262.860.6220 fax 262.827.3970 www.flanners.com

September 27, 2007

Senator Jeffrey Plale et.al.
Chairperson, Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Wisconsin State Senate
State Capitol Building

Dear Senator Plale and Committee members,

I am John Flanner, president of Flanner's Home Entertainment; a family owned and operated retail business in the Milwaukee area for 116 years. My company employs over 80 people and we sell and install home and commercial audio video systems.

I am here today to strongly urge you to adopt the amendment to Senate Bill 167 which would raise the power threshold requiring involvement of a licensed electrician for systems operating at 100 volts or more. To leave it at 50 volts as written in the original draft would be a very unnecessary intrusion into state commerce and only serve to raise building costs within the state of Wisconsin.

The United States Department of Labor has recognized our trade, the Electronics Systems Technician, as a distinct trade and the work we do is clearly differentiated from that done by licensed electricians. We are well schooled in what we do and passionate about the quality we provide. I assure you that the lower 50-volt requirement would solve no existing problem, not address any safety issue or ensure higher quality work than is currently being done.

I think we all agree that the rightful function of legislative oversight, absent a public safety issue or societal concern, is to ensure the wheels of commerce are allowed to spin freely, enabling efficiencies and innovation to flourish. The 100 volt threshold, as amended, is the proper one to legislate and would correct what I think was an unintended consequence from the original writing. I urge you to pass the amendment and thank you for holding this public hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Flanner".

John Flanner
President, Flanner's Home Entertainment







Wisconsin Chapter

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Testimony on Senate Bill 167 (Electrical Licensing)
September 27, 2007**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is John Mielke and I am the Vice President of Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin (ABC).

We are a statewide trade association of over 800 construction and construction related firms. More than 150 of those companies are electrical contractors.

I am here today to express our support for Senate Bill 167 and for Senate Amendment 1.

Our support of this bill is the result of an evolution in our position, a collaborative process, and of compromise.

The issue of electrical licensing is not new in Wisconsin. There have been many failed attempts over several legislative sessions.

Historically, ABC of Wisconsin has supported contractor licensing and increased inspection of electrical construction while we opposed mandatory statewide credentialing of field level electricians.

In January of 2006 ABC of Wisconsin formed a Special Subcommittee on Electrical Licensing to advise the association. The subcommittee felt that, under the right circumstances, mandatory field level credentialing could be part of an over licensing scheme in the electrical industry.

In our opinion, this bill represents "the right circumstances" and we encourage you to enact into law.

The bill is not perfect from our perspective, but that is the nature of a compromise. However, the bill will vastly improve the nature of electrical construction in Wisconsin. Simply put, we did not want perfect to become the enemy of good.

This bill requires electrical contractors to be licensed and to have a competent professional responsible for their work. It requires increased inspection of electrical construction providing for consumer protection.

Senate Bill 167 requires electricians to be trained and to provide evidence of that training. It makes accommodations for utility companies, manufacturers, and others not directly engaged in the business of electrical construction, and it provides a clear path for those who wish to enter the trade either as electricians or electrical contractors.

The process was not easy and at times even contentious. But I want to thank the bills authors for keeping everyone at the table to ultimately produce the bill that is before you now.

I would like to thank my industry partners for their collaborative approach and I would like to especially thank the members of the ABC Subcommittee who helped the association resolve this difficult issue on behalf of our members.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Testimony
of
National Systems Contractors Association

Presented to
Wisconsin Senate Committee on
Commerce, Utilities and Rail

Jeffrey Plale, Chair
Senate Bill 167

September 27, 2007

Chairman Plale and Members of the Committee,

The National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Senate Bill 167. As you know, this bill addresses regulations of electrical wiring and statewide licensure of electricians, electrical contractors, and electrical inspectors.

NSCA is the leading not-for-profit association representing the commercial electronic systems industry. With more than 2,500 member companies worldwide (30 of which are based in Wisconsin), NSCA is a powerful advocate of all who work within the low-voltage industry, including systems contractors/integrators, product manufacturers, consultants, sales representatives, architects, specifying engineers and other allied professionals. NSCA is dedicated to serving members through education, advocacy, research, and member services.

As it is currently written, Senate Bill 167 would establish a state wiring code for the installation, repair, and maintenance of electrical wiring, regardless of the type of building. This legislation also changes licensing requirements to become statewide rather than controlled by municipalities. The new requirements would exempt, according to the bill, "A person engaged in installing, repairing, or maintaining equipment or systems that operate at 50 volts or less."

However, even given this exemption, the legislation would negatively affect many NSCA members. The fine line between electricians and those certified in electronic systems could result in unnecessary requirements and training for systems integrators. NSCA supports licensing individuals only in cases where the license is specific to the type of work and where workers are not forced to carry a license for work they cannot do.

Amendment 1, offered by Senator Russell Decker, increases the level of voltage from 50 volts to 100 volts. This proposed change allows only those working in the low-voltage industry — including installers for audiovisual, fire/life safety, data, video, and home theater, among others — to maintain their specialized training and certification, thus ensuring properly integrated and installed systems. Without changing the voltage requirements, this would have a negative impact to the customers, employers and employees within the electronic systems industry.

Today we ask the Committee to adopt Amendment 1 to ensure those working in the commercial electronic systems industry continue to have the ability to provide professional services.

Thank you for time. NSCA looks forward to working with the Committee on Senate Bill 167.





To: Wisconsin Legislature

From: Bill Skewes, Executive Director
Wisconsin Utilities Association

Re: Support for SB 167/AB 294 as amended by SA 1

Date: September 27, 2007

On behalf of Wisconsin's investor-owned gas and electric utilities the Wisconsin Utilities Association (WUA) wishes to thank Rep. Al Ott and Senator Russ Decker, the authors of SB 167 and its companion bill, AB 294, for offering this important legislation.

WUA especially appreciates the efforts the authors have made to find consensus among the numerous stakeholders and accommodate the needs of the utility industry to ensure that their ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service is not compromised.

As you may know, this bill creates a statewide system of licensure for electricians. WUA supports this bill because the lack of uniform standards and licensure under current law has resulted in a patchwork of regulation between jurisdictions and has allowed less-than qualified individuals to perform electrical work.

Substandard wiring can lead to degradation of the customer's side of the electric system and inadequate performance and safety standards in homes, farms and businesses. Requiring uniform licensure of all electricians will help ensure that quality electrical work is being performed thus increasing customer safety and electrical system performance.

Therefore, please take executive action on this important legislation and support passage of AB 294 and SB 167 when they come to the floor for a vote.



Venskus, Katy

From: Greenheck, Luanne C [Luanne.Greenheck@landsend.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2007 2:25 PM
Subject: Vote NO to AB294 (Assembly) or SB167 (Senate)_Urgent RSVP by 16-October

Stephen J. Greenheck 2244 County Road Y Dodgeville, WI 53533
=====

ELECTRICAL LICENSING October 8, 2007

Vote NO to AB294 (Assembly) or SB167 (Senate)
authored by Representative Ott and Senator Decker

Because of Point #3 stating
"REQUIRE THAT FIELD LEVEL ELECTRICIANS DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY BY
EITHER PASSING A STATE EXAM OR BY COMPLETING A FIVE YEAR
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM"

Fault with Section 1 ~
REQUIRE THAT FIELD LEVEL ELECTRICIANS DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY BY
EITHER PASSING A STATE EXAM WITHIN FIVE YEARS

◇ Recommend/Request this hold a Grandfather Clause, which it does not.

Grandfather Clause:

I, Stephen J. Greenheck, have been an Electrician for 36 years, working my way from Residential to Journeyman Electrician. A long-time electrician in the trade, have proven to be an exceptional electrician, admired and respected for attention to detail and prowess in ability to manually complete any given task after having assisted at times in the electrical design and planning. Have taken continuing education classes to advance and to keep abreast of the code demands. Through personal efforts has been successful.

Other electricians that have so proven and made electrical work their career, and due to maturity, wisdom and abilities proven, should be grandfathered in to the proposed law. They have proven themselves by doing, which far out ways the ability to take a test.

If the bill is not adopted with a grandfather clause, we consider this a type of discrimination and these seasoned, experienced, hard-working, competent electricians are not being respected and acknowledged for their years of competent electrical work.

Fault with Section 2 ~

BY COMPLETING A FIVE YEAR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM"

◇ 5-year apprentice should still be required to pass the state test.

We feel that the 5-year apprentice should still be required to take the state certified test, comparable to the way the

Master Plumber certification is handled. A 5-yr apprentice has succeeded in book learning but has not yet proven technical performance to any degree that the seasoned electricians have. Why should they be given this advantage? Begin here with the enforcement of this action and let the new requirements cascade forward in to the electrical licensing bill.

We strongly agree that there should be guidelines. We know of electrician's WITH STATE LICENSES that we would not let wire our chicken coop – let alone a family dwelling or a business structure. Just because they have the piece of paper doesn't make them competent.

Feel free to contact us. We would be glad to meet with you and show you the passion we feel toward the NO vote for this bill as it is currently presented.

Stephen & Luanne Greenheck
2244 County Road Y
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Home 608-935-1993
Steve's Cell 608-553-1241
Luanne's Work anytime 608-935-6049





CUSTOM
ELECTRONIC
DESIGN &
INSTALLATION
ASSOCIATION



CUSTOM
ELECTRONIC
DESIGN &
INSTALLATION
ASSOCIATION

DARREN REAMAN
PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER

CEDIA HEADQUARTERS
7150 WINTON DRIVE, SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268 USA
(317) 328-4336 • (800) 669-5329
FAX: (317) 280-8527
EMAIL: dreaman@cedia.org WEB: www.cedia.org

October 9, 2007

Katy Venskus
Clerk, Commerce, Utilities & Rail
WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Katy:

On behalf of the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA), thank you for your time to meet with us on Senate Bill 167, legislation related to statewide electrical licensing.

CEDIA is a technology-based trade association of companies that specialize in designing and installing electronic systems for the home. These systems include home automation and communication systems, media rooms, single or multi-room entertainment systems and integrated whole-house subsystems.

We would encourage the committee's support of Senate amendment 1, offered by Senator Decker, which would increase the minimum operating voltage from 50 volts to 100 volts for those who install, repair or maintain equipment or systems. With Senate amendment 1 the legislation makes a proper distinction between the work of an electronic systems technician and the work of an electrician by raising the voltage level to 100 volts.

It was a pleasure meeting you and I wish you continued success during the 2007 legislative session. CEDIA and its member companies in Wisconsin look forward to continuing to work with you on Senate Bill 167.

Sincerely,

Darren Reaman
Public Policy Manager
CEDIA
(800) 669-5329
dreaman@cedia.org

7150 WINTON DRIVE, SUITE 300, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268 USA
VOICE: 800-669-5329 • 317-328-4336 • FAX: 317-280-8527
WEB: WWW.CEDIA.ORG • EMAIL: INFO@CEDIA.ORG





CUSTOM
ELECTRONIC
DESIGN &
INSTALLATION
ASSOCIATION



CUSTOM
ELECTRONIC
DESIGN &
INSTALLATION
ASSOCIATION

DARREN REAMAN
PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER

CEDIA HEADQUARTERS
7150 WINTON DRIVE, SUITE 300
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46268 USA
(317) 328-4336 • (800) 669-5329
FAX: (317) 280-8527
EMAIL: dreaman@cedia.org WEB: www.cedia.org

October 9, 2007

Senator Jeff Plale
WISCONSIN STATE SENATE
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Plale:

On behalf of the Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association (CEDIA), thank you for your time to meet with us on Senate Bill 167, legislation related to statewide electrical licensing.

CEDIA is a technology-based trade association of companies that specialize in designing and installing electronic systems for the home. These systems include home automation and communication systems, media rooms, single or multi-room entertainment systems and integrated whole-house subsystems.

Thank you for your support of Senate amendment 1 and raising the voltage level to 100 volts and thus making proper distinction for the work of electronic systems technicians in Senate Bill 167.

It was a pleasure meeting you and I wish you continued success during the 2007 legislative session. CEDIA and its member companies in Wisconsin look forward to continuing to work with you on Senate Bill 167.

Sincerely,

Darren Reaman
Public Policy Manager
CEDIA
(800) 669-5329
dreaman@cedia.org





Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

October 10, 2007

Senator Jeff Plale
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail
Room 313 South
State Capitol
(Hand Delivered)

Dear Senator Plale,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 167, which would require electricians and electrical contractors to be licensed by the State of Wisconsin.

Given the significant support shown for the bill during the hearing, I respectfully request your consideration in scheduling an executive session on Senate Bill 167.

As you know, Senator Decker and I have been working closely with a coalition of stakeholders on this legislation, and I believe we have built the consensus necessary to move forward.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District





Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

October 23, 2007

Senator Jeff Plale
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail
Room 313 South
State Capitol
(Hand Delivered)

Dear Senator Plale,

Thank you for scheduling an executive session on Senate Bill 167, which would require electricians and electrical contractors to be licensed by the State of Wisconsin.

As the committee prepares to meet and take action on this bill, I would request the committee's favorable consideration of Senate Amendment 1 and Senate Amendment 3. I would further request that the committee not approve Senate Amendment 2.

Amendments 1 and 3 make various technical changes to the bill to address concerns raised after the bill was introduced. They reflect consensus reached by the stakeholders involved in developing this legislation.

Amendment 2 was introduced inadvertently, and the issue it was intended to resolve is better addressed by Senate Amendment 3.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Al Ott'.

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail





Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

November 1, 2007

Senator Jeff Plale
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities & Rail
Room 313 South
State Capitol
Hand-Delivered

Dear Senator Plale,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of Senate Bill 167, which would require electricians and electrical contractors to be licensed by the State of Wisconsin.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this bill, and your vote to recommend its passage.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District





Wisconsin Electrical
Trades Council

Wisconsin Electrical Trades Council

6737 W. Washington St. • Suite 1420 • Milwaukee, WI 53214
414-276-8788 • fax: 414-276-7704 • www.wielectrictrades.com

Senator Jeffery Plale
Chairman; Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Room 313 South
State Capitol
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Re: SB167 Electrical Licensing

Senator Plale,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Electrical Trades Council, Inc. (WETC) I would like to urge passage of Senate Bill 167 to require licensing electricians and inspection of electrical installations. This legislation is long overdue. At our annual meeting this last February in Eau Claire, WI the membership of the WETC adopted a motion to encourage passage of this legislation.

The WETC is an organization that has been in existence for 50 years, and is dedicated to educating our members in the practice of safe and efficient electrical installations. Our membership is statewide, with the bulk residing in rural areas. We currently have about 90 members including electrical contractors and inspectors.

While it might seem to some, that safe and efficient electrical wiring is only a metropolitan issue, I can assure you that our members report many incidents of poorly installed electrical wiring in the rural areas of Wisconsin. Defective and poorly installed electrical wiring results in the loss of life and property each year. Passage of SB167 will set the bar for what is an acceptable electrical "Quality Installation" done by "Qualified Professional" for the entire state and provide for the increased safety of the citizens.

Sincerely Yours

David Helgeson
Secretary Treasurer
Wisconsin Electrical Trades Council, Inc.