



PLUMBERS

PIPEFITTERS

REFRIGERATION

February 12, 2024

Honorable Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. /Chairman
House Corporations Committee
HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov
State House
Providence, RI

***RE: Support of H-7015 AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS --
ELECTRICIANS***

Dear Chairman Solomon,

As Business Manager of United Association Local 51, I represent over 1200 Licensed Plumbers, Pipefitters, HVAC Technicians and their respective registered apprentices. I am writing to you today to express my **strong support on H-7015**. I frankly was surprised when I heard there were people in opposition to a simple clarification of the existing law for electricians. After review, these clarifications are already well understood in all the trades.

The law for electricians is not unlike the laws for all of the other licensed construction trades. All of our trades have Home Inspection companies observing and reporting on various systems in the residential market. In my industry, Home Inspectors are not allowed to remove any covers that require tools or that are designed for anything other than routine homeowner maintenance. They are not licensed, trained or qualified to do anything beyond that. More in depth inspections are required by law to be done by people with the proper trade licensing who can provide a thorough and detailed evaluation of the complete system in any structure.

In my industry, all fabrication, assembly and installation of all related components are also required by law to be installed by persons in their licensed division of my industry or registered apprentices. This is the same in all licensed trades. The less skilled tasks are those that are performed by the registered apprentices as they begin to acquire their skills. To allow non-licensed people or non-registered people acting as apprentices to perform any work of a licensed trade is detrimental to the apprentice model and serves no purpose other than an attempt to increase profits.

In conclusion, I wish again to state my **strong support for H-7015** whereas it merely explains the existing statute better and is a matter of public safety.

Sincerely,

Paul Alvarez / Business Manager UA Local 51

cc:

Representative Deborah Fellela