

## Craig Jones Testimony Regarding SB 181

Hi, my name is Craig Jones, and I am the owner/operator of Country Home Elevator, which I founded 2000. Based in Olathe, Kansas. I would like to thank the members of the committee for your time and the opportunity to be heard at today's hearing. Country Home Elevator has been doing business in KS for 20 years. My background is in Engineering and Elevator design. I hold a CET-S designation from the National Association of Elevator Contractors – NAEC. I Have Served on the Executive Board for the NAEC, Provided Training CEU's for Elevator mechanics, Elevator Inspectors NAESAI organization, I have been a Committee member on the ASME A17.1 Section 5.3 Elevator Code Committee writing Elevator Code and Code interpretations. I am a Licensed Commercial Elevator Mechanic in Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa & Oklahoma. I have been in the Elevator Trade since 1988. Also a Firefighter and Fire Chief 14 years' experience.

I come here today to testify regarding Senate Bill 181, "Creating the elevator safety act to require inspections of elevators and licensure for elevator installation and repair".

After a thorough reading of the bill, I have questions and concerns that need to be addressed.

1. As currently written, SB 181 would allow for an undefined code to be developed and implemented by unelected government officials, thus creating law through the regulatory process. I am concerned that these Laws will be developed and enacted by an un-elected Regulatory Body not the legislature in Kansas?
2. Normally, legislation is brought front and center for some reason. I have been unable to identify what current safety hazard exists that demands this change. Have studies been conducted that show elevators in Kansas to be unsafe? Are there accident reports that necessitate this legislation due to impending risk?
3. Has the committee considered the budget constraints of starting a new code regulation authority and how many FTE salaries would be needed to support this Bill?
4. Has the committee considered the added cost to small businesses to require permits and inspections?
5. Is the committee aware what is currently being done in Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City area where 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspections are already required? This Currently covers most of the Kansas Population centers.
6. Commercial elevator companies in Kansas are currently installing and inspecting under ASME (The American Society of Mechanical Engineers) code and are insured based on their safety record.
7. This legislation will put small churches and non-profits in a difficult position as it will limit their ability to provide handicap access to their facilities per ADA recommendations and guidelines by adding cost to the process of obtaining the added Permits and inspection of the equipment.
8. As it is, retaining qualified mechanics is already difficult. This legislation will only make it more difficult to manage Asking for one More Permit to do what we currently do, but at a higher cost of doing business and submitting CEU's & Renewals to 4 States and many local jurisdictions already.
9. There is currently No Reciprocity with other States or AHJ's that we already have licenses in. This Must be addressed as part of the LAW or may not be included in promulgation of rules.

10. A much simpler process would be to:

- a. Register elevators.
- b. Provide proof of 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection.
- c. Require contractors and inspectors to be licensed, not mechanics and require only an Initial Acceptance Test.
- d. The National ASME Standard already requires Annual testing and the other scheduled Inspections that All Commercial Companies follow.
- e. The Addition of a Regulatory Body only complicates and increases cost to Building owners and Small churches already struggling to make their buildings accessible.
- f. What is the cost of owning a Commercial elevator and What will it be after implementation? 30% More?

List of Added Costs:

1. Permit \$
2. Initial inspection as Acceptance \$
3. Annual Inspection \$
4. 6 Month Inspection \$
5. MCP Fee \$
6. Video and Remote Monitoring Fee 2019 code requires \$
7. Labor Rate have and will increase even further because No one can get a license

I ask that you do your due diligence to understand these added Cost of operating an elevator in Kansas and the Cost to Kansas Taxpayers to create another bureaucracy that must be funded and managed.

Thank you for your time today.

Respectfully,

Craig Jones CET-S Owner

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