

SENATE NO. 7

DATE 2/16/05

BILL NO. SB 412

Good morning Chair Cocchiarella and Business and Labor Committee

My Name is Charlie Val I am a Business Representative for the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 19

I am here to speak in favor of SB 412 an Elevator Safety Bill

I will limit my statement to just 48 pages but don't worry I write large

Let's get right down to the business at hand

The Bill before you SB 412 is the product of years of work. This started as the result of the harmonization process of the A17 code of the United States and the B44 code of Canada SB412 is the Elevator Industries best effort to address safety concerns, from education, elevator inspection, and even licensing of Elevator Mechanics and Elevator Contractors. Legislators around the country have been very concerned about the elevator industry's safety and the safety of the riding public. The legislation that was passed in 16 other states such as Washington and Oregon has been used to compile this Elevator Safety Bill. With the assistance of Montana Bill writers and the Department of labor to assure that SB 412's terminology complies with Montana Codes

There is a growing concern of the number of accidents that result in injury and death on elevators and other conveyances. An industry report, prepared under a grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. For the very first time offers a shocking look at an industry that proclaims to be the safest form of transportation. We in the industry took this report very seriously.

The study before you covered a ten-year period 1992 - 2001. During that time 146 employees were killed and 61 were operators/passengers riding elevators at work, and five deaths on escalators. The consumer product safety commission study shows that there are 17,100 accidents on elevator and escalators each year, serious enough to require Hospitalization. Unfortunately, there are no records kept of the public, only employees.

This Bill has been endorsed by the National Elevator Industry Inc. This is a management group that represents 750 elevator contractors for the purpose collective bargaining and other management functions.

The International Union of Elevator Constructors, representing 25,000 elevator constructors (45 in the state of Montana)

More importantly I feel SB412 is endorsed by the people that live and work in the state of Montana.