



## MESSAGE FROM MARSHA

### **INDEPENDENT AND PROUD OF IT!**

**August 25, 2008**

This year I opposed a bill that would affect 16,500 licensed electricians and 12,500 apprentice electricians by mandating radical and broad sweeping changes to Colorado's electrical licensing statutes. HB1170 sponsored by Rep. Soper (D) and Senator Tochtrop (D) of Adams County, would require additional educational mandates that are costly, currently unavailable and result in a shortfall of electricians in Colorado.

HB1170 would require additional training from electrical trade schools or community colleges; license renewal would be contingent upon satisfaction of the newly established continuing competency programs; and new apprentices must enroll in a program certified by the Office of Apprenticeship in the federal Department of Labor.

Sounds good, until we discover there are NOT enough licensed facilities or classroom seats in Colorado to teach the continuing competency programs. Unfortunately, due to the lack of facilities approximately 29,000 electricians would have major difficulties securing the necessary continuing education classes, which would result in the suspension or non-renewal of their electrical licenses.

Inadequate classroom resources would result in the unemployment of thousands of Colorado electricians at a time when many families are already feeling the negative impacts in the downturn of the economy. Eventually, Governor Ritter vetoed HB1170. Higher costs for electrical services and longer wait times for individuals and companies requiring a licensed and qualified electrician is something most Colorado citizens are not interested in supporting.

Many people are not aware that authorized apprentice electricians are currently required to attend four years of classroom education, four years of on-the-job training, totaling 8,576 instruction hours under the supervision of a journeyman or master electrician. We all support continuing education in an industry that is responsible for the electrical needs of our communities. Together with planning for proper training facilities and instructors we can move forward on discussions of continuing education issues that are vital for the safety of the public and employees in the electrical industry. I look forward to future discussions that involve **ALL** of the stakeholders involved in electrical training, services and safety.

Please contact me for any questions or comments regarding this issue or any other state issue and thank you for allowing me to be the voice of hardworking, independent minded citizens of House District 19.

Respectfully,

***Marsha Looper***

Marsha Looper,

Colorado State Representative HD#19

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