

Dutchess County

Young Republicans

For Immediate Release:

Date: July 1st, 2009

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Bill McCabe and the Electrical Licensing Law – Paid for by those who benefit most!

As Dutchess County's new Electrical Licensing Board gets underway preparing to add a new layer of governmental bureaucracy to county government, and increasing costs to consumers, let's look back at how this extra layer of government red tape arose, who was the driving force behind it, who lobbied for it and how. Campaign contributions received by Bill McCabe, the Democrat representing Lagrange and Unionvale in the Dutchess County Legislature, who was main sponsor of the Electrical Licensing Law passed late last year are revealing.

The Democrat-controlled Dutchess County Legislature passed an electrical licensing law this past October, despite overwhelming opposition to the law by the people. The law requires electrical work done in Dutchess County be performed by a county-licensed electrician. County Executive William Steinhaus vetoed the law, but the Democrat majority later overrode the veto. The Licensing Board, which will oversee the law's implementation, has only recently begun meeting.

The end result is a devastating blow to the competitive market place by limiting the supply of capable, qualified electricians from the local market, which by even the most elementary economic rules of supply and demand will result in driving up prices to local homeowners. Furthermore, local electricians are required to pay expensive annual licensing fees causing further increases in the cost of doing business, and ultimately exasperating the increase in prices to the consumer.

Electrical unions came out in strong support of the Licensing Law, which is understandable -- albeit unfair -- as it would create an effective monopoly for them in blocking out competition. According to records provided by the New York State Board of Elections, Bill McCabe received campaign contributions from the Dutchess County Electrical Contractors Association, Construction Contractors Association of Hudson Valley, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 363 Union all prior to the proposed legislation. Like contributions to the Dutchess Democratic Party is also well documented. It remains unclear whether this is a quid pro quo, a bribe or a mere coincidence.

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While Mr. McCabe and his Democratic Party are lining their pockets with political contributions from electrical unions, the residents of Dutchess County are left footing the bill, contractors are left being forced to subcontract electrical work, and small independent electricians are forced to pay annual fees, while lifetime electricians are left having to “prove” themselves to the bureaucrats forced between them and their livelihood. Worse off is the consumer who must now pay increased electrician rates when the cost of the licensing gets passed off to them.

Bill McCabe and his Democratic Party has sent a message that pay-to-play politics will continue to be a driving force in setting policy in the Dutchess County Legislature; worse yet is the push for more regulation and more money drained from the pockets of the hard working tax payers of Dutchess County.

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