



DATE: January 16, 2023

Chairman James A. Leftwich, Jr.
Pochontas Building, Room W232
900 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Support of House Bill 1392

Dear Chairman Leftwich,

On behalf of Verton Australia Pty Ltd, I would like to express full support for House Bill 1392. HB 1392 creates safer crane operations by allowing for autonomous load stability mechanisms to be used during hoisting operations. HB 1392 not only makes hoist operations safer but keeps policy up to date with proven emerging and innovative technology.

Our staff is comprised of highly skilled individuals who use leading-edge construction technology to meet Virginia's growing needs. We believe HB 1392 not only improves overall construction safety but also provides an inclusive environment for innovation to adapt to safety standards.

Older laws and regulations have not been updated and restrict our ability to use new innovative technologies. One example of this is found in the Code of Virginia, 25-175-1926.1417, which mandates the use of tag lines or restraint lines on all loads that tend to swing or turn freely during hoisting. This regulation forces the use of an outdated and unsafe method to manually stabilize swinging crane loads. Manually stabilizing loads with tag lines also increases the risk of strains, dislocations, and amputations. With 225,000 cranes in operation across the U.S. doing 2.4 million lifts per day, there is a persistent risk of serious accidents or fatalities. In fact, Virginia has the nation's 11th highest rate of crane-related accidents resulting in serious injuries or fatalities.

Virginia's Code must be modernized to meet the construction industry's safety needs and keep up with the demand for labor. Welcoming the use of safety-focused innovation in existing laws and regulations are merely one way of achieving this goal. We hope this committee and the Virginia Legislature will give bipartisan support for HB 1392.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Thomson'.

Stanley Thomson

CEO

Verton Australia Pty Ltd