

January 15, 2023

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

RE: Support of House Bill 1392

Dear Chairman Leftwich,

Vita Inclinata Technologies designs and manufactures intelligent load stabilization systems for the industrial/construction and aerospace industries. I would like to express our full support for House Bill 1392. HB 1392 enables safer crane operations by allowing the use autonomous load stability mechanisms during hoisting operations. Moreover, HB 1392 keeps the Commonwealth's industrial workplace safety policies up to date with proven emerging technologies that are truly innovative, dramatically reduce or eliminate risk of injury or death, and drive operational efficiencies.

Currently, Virginia relies on Federal OSHA guidelines for many of its workplace safety policies, such as the outdated regulation mandating the use of a handheld tag line during crane operations. A tag line is essentially a rope attached to the bottom of a crane load that is used to manually control the load's swing.

OSHA's tag line regulations have not been updated since the 1970's; in fact, the tag line concept dates back more than 4,000 years. This method is not only outdated, but also imprecise and frankly unsafe. With new load stabilizing technology innovation, we can eliminate human error and environmental factors, and reduce or eliminate workplace accident risk by establishing total load stabilization for crane hoist operations.

In the last decade, there were more than 20 injuries and fatalities in Virginia associated with OSHA-reportable crane accidents. More than half of the Commonwealth's crane-related accidents were due to workers being forced to operate too close to a crane's load. Future fatalities and injuries could be prevented if the appropriate load stabilization technology is permitted for use on industrial and construction worksites throughout the Commonwealth.

As an additional benefit of House Bill 1392, active load stabilizers further improve overall job efficiency by some 20 percent. Time delays are common in crane operations; high wind gust can result in a load being grounded, while long tag lines must be deployed and maneuvered to control lifts that are often several stories high. Load stabilizing technologies are designed to meet such challenges as heavy wind gusts and other environmental factors, allowing crane operations to continue without delays and more safely than traditional tag lines.



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Virginia's Code must be modernized to meet the industrial and construction industries' safety needs and keep pace with the demand for labor. Incorporating the use of safety-focused innovation in existing workplace safety laws and regulations is an important means 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 be "C. Miller", written in a cursive style.

Founder & CEO

Vita Inclinata Technologies