



**TESTIMONY
BRIAN PHINNEY
PRESIDENT
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 26, 2008**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **supports SB-408. An Act Concerning the Funding of Enforcement of Certain Professional and Occupational Licensing, Certification and Registration Laws.**

SB-408 will allow the state Department of Consumer Protection to vigorously enforce the state's occupational licensing laws by ensuring that they have a sufficient number of inspectors to perform the job.

Unfortunately, due to an inadequate number of personnel available for enforcement measures, the laws are ineffective in deterring contractors from operating in Connecticut without the proper licenses and apprenticeship registrations. We are aware of instances where contractors have operated in Connecticut without benefit of licensure and shrugged off the penalty because it was unlikely that anyone would have the opportunity to enforce the law against them.

Allowing unlicensed contractors to operate in Connecticut hurts our entire industry by exposing workers and consumers to potentially unsafe situations. Apprentices, who should have been given credit for hours on the job, are unfairly penalized by unscrupulous contractors who fail to register them as apprentices. Unfortunately, the Department has not had the staff to vigorously pursue violators.

We therefore urge support for this bill, which would enhance enforcement of the state's occupational licensing laws. **CT-PHCC urges lawmakers to oppose SB-408.**

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.