

**Testimony of Frank DaCato, Training Coordinator**

**United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 777**

**Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee**

**Re: Bill #6375 ACT CONCERNING REVIEW & TERMINATION of CERTAIN  
BOARDS and COMMISSIONS**

**Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. I would first like to thank you for taking the time to listen to me today. My name is Frank DaCato, I am the training Coordinator for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 and I am also a member of the State Apprenticeship Council and State Plumbing Board. I am here to speak to you today regarding the importance of keeping all the occupational licensing boards intact.**

**These six boards were established to help protect Connecticut's consumers by recommending adoption of regulations to the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection, hearing complains from consumers, imposing fines on contractors who cheat the public and referring violations to the State's Attorney's Office. They also review applications for state licenses. Each board has between eight and 12 members who voluntary meet six times per year. The only compensation that some board members get is mileage. There are others who will not even take that. The boards are made up of professionals from each of their fields such as licensed contractors and licensed journeypersons, and along with the public members these volunteers will spend hours of their time to listen and try and resolve issues brought before them. In the case of the Electrical and Plumbing boards they will even work on their own time to develop curriculum for continuing education units for licensed electricians and plumbers to make sure that are up to date on the latest materials, joining methods, codes and OSHA regulations as well as EPA and public health codes and other issues that concern our industries. They also make sure that our licensed contractors have all the correct information on regulations such as licensing, taxes, insurance and apprentice hiring. Without these boards, who in the Department of Consumer Protection will have the expertise to listen to complaints fairly, not just for the consumer but also for the contractor who may be in the right? Who has the knowledge to develop the curriculum every two years for**

**the plumbing trade and every year for the electrical trade? Without these voluntary board members would the Department of Consumer Protection then have to hire and pay consultants to do what the board members do for gas money?**

**I do not want to take up to much of your time so I will close by saying; for years I attended plumbing board meeting as an observer. Last year I was asked if I would be interested in serving on the board but in order to do this I would have to down grade my personal license category from a P-1, which I worked very hard to get, to a P-2. There was no hesitation, with the help of Mr. Richard Hurlbut from the Department of Consumer Protection I was able to shelve my P-1 and was re issued a P-2 which enabled me to be sworn to the board on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2008. I am very proud to be able to serve the State of Connecticut and my fellow citizens in the state and with your help hope that I will be able to continue for a long time.**

**Once again thank you and I will be happy to try and answer any questions you may have now or you may also contact me by phone at 203-686-0700 or e-mail at [fdacato@local777.com](mailto:fdacato@local777.com). I will help in anyway I can.**

**Respectfully Submitted; Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Frank J. DaCato, Training Coordinator**