



# CT-PHCC

PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY  
ROBERT MACCA  
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR  
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes SB-837, which doubles many of our licensing and registration fees.**

Increasing fees for licenses and apprenticeship registrations will add to the cost of doing business in this state at a time when plumbing contractors are already struggling because of the economic downturn. With both residential and commercial construction at an almost standstill, times are very tough for those of us in the trades.

We are particularly concerned with the increase in apprenticeship registration fees. To assist the state in funding the program during these difficult budgetary times, the Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) and other trade associations supported passage of Public Act 03-207, which requires employers to pay \$30 per year for each apprentice employed and apprentices to pay \$25 per year. We had hoped that this would be a temporary fee, inasmuch as the state is required to provide apprenticeship training services, and should therefore fund such services without resorting to fees.

Increasing the fees, as called for in SB-837, may discourage employers from offering apprenticeship training, which costs the employer considerably in terms of wages, benefits, and supervisory time. This would have a negative impact on our economy, because apprentices pay state and federal income taxes on the wages they receive and move into higher paying positions when they reach journeymen status.

If we are to help Connecticut move toward economic recovery, we cannot make it any more difficult or costly for small and midsize employers to do business in this state. Connecticut must rein in its spending and control costs to address the budget deficit. We respectfully urge you to reject this bill.

*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.*