



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-937^H, which would impose a 30% surcharge on the Corporate Income Tax.**

The vast majority of our members provide plumbing services in the residential market, which has slowed down considerably due to the economy. Permits for new home construction plunged 25 percent in Connecticut in 2008, marking the fourth straight year of declines. Customers are also very nervous about undertaking any renovations or remodeling projects.

As predominately small businesses, we are working hard to make ends meet and cutting costs where possible in order to keep our employees on the payroll and our doors open. We need to reward companies that manage to keep their doors open in this economy, rather than penalize them by adding a 30% surcharge on the corporate income tax. Our members pay their fair share of taxes, including sales taxes, property taxes, registration and licensing fees and income taxes. We have stepped up to the plate when the state needed assistance to fund its apprenticeship training programs. Many of our members also volunteer on boards and commissions, in the Technical High Schools or in their communities and donate to charities. But if the state continues to increase taxes to plug their deficit, we will not have the revenues or resources to continue to pay those taxes, volunteer that time and make those donations.

Businesses must be positioned to help drive the state's economic recovery. Increasing taxes will only drive business into the ground. We urge you to cut state spending to address the budget deficit rather than undermine our long-term economic recovery by making it impossible for businesses to continue to operate and provide jobs.

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.