



**TESTIMONY
ROBERT MACCA
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **supports SB-849, An Act Concerning Municipal Enforcement of Licensure Laws.**

As professionals in the skilled trades, we must assist the state Department of Consumer Protection in vigorously enforcing the state's occupational licensing laws. Authorizing municipal building officials to refer licensing violations to the state Department of Consumer Protection and targeting a share of such fines to municipal building departments will go a long way toward ensuring stronger enforcement at the local level and strengthening the state's licensing enforcement efforts.

While the state has taken several steps to enhance occupational licensing enforcement, and we thank you for that, we need to continue to support policies that will effectively deter 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 the risk of enforcement was so low.

Allowing unlicensed contractors to operate in Connecticut hurts our entire industry by exposing workers and consumers to potentially unsafe situations. Employees, who should have been given credit for hours on the job, are unfairly penalized by unscrupulous contractors who fail to register apprentices. This has to end.

We **fully support SB-849** as a means of beefing up occupational licensing enforcement and deterring unlicensed contractors from doing business in this state.

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.