



**TESTIMONY OF  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT (CT-PHCC)  
AND  
CONNECTICUT HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (CHCC)  
BEFORE THE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2010**

The Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors of Connecticut (CT-PHCC) and the Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following joint comments supporting HB-5225, An Act Concerning Solar Work:

State law establishes a licensing system for several trades overseen by the Examining Boards for the Electrical Work; Heating, Piping, and Cooling Work; Plumbing and Piping Work; Elevator Installation, Repair, and Maintenance Work; Automotive Glass Work and Flat Glass Work; and Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Boards. Each trade has different levels of expertise—apprentice, journeyman, and contractor. Workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to qualify for each level. Members of the plumbing and heating trades who hold unlimited licenses are qualified to perform any and all work related to their trade.

Last session, members of the plumbing, heating and cooling industry strongly supported similar legislation regarding solar thermal systems. Just like last year's legislation, CT-PHCC and CHCC similarly feel that this bill is a common-sense, pro-consumer positive measure that 1) Address safety concerns for workers; 2) Protect consumers by ensuring that solar PV systems are safely installed by properly licensed contractors; 3) Expands opportunities for Connecticut businesses and residents to reduce energy costs through solar PV energy systems by eliminating unnecessary obstacles for Connecticut's licensed electricians to become certified installers under the Connecticut Clean Energy

Fund programs. 4) Promote "green jobs" by building confidence in solar PV technologies through appropriate training and licensing requirements.

As CT-PHCC and CHCC contractors are trying to provide jobs for their workers, they are concerned about the increasing delays in the approval process for tradespersons wishing to become "qualified installers" under the various Clean Energy Fund rebate or incentive programs. Members of the industry who hold unlimited licenses and who are more than sufficiently trained and technically competent to install and work on solar systems, whether they are solar PV or in the case of our industry, solar thermal, are increasingly concerned about the various impediments thrown up which serve only to shut out qualified members of the plumbing, heating and cooling industry from performing work to the detriment of the consumer.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and we urge passage of the 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.*

*CHCC is a trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.*