



**TESTIMONY  
SCOTT BASSO  
STEVE BASSO PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
CONNECTICUT HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS (CHCC)  
BEFORE THE  
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

Good afternoon. My name is Scott Basso. I am on the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC), 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

**CHCC supports the intent of SB-133, An Act Concerning Apprentices and Journeymen Contractor Ratios**, to make the hiring ratio of apprentices to journeymen for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors consistent with the hiring ratio for other trades. We understand that the bill is expected to be revised by the committee to reflect this change.

This minor change in the ratio will give plumbing, heating and cooling contractors more flexibility to hire apprentices, which will allow our small businesses to grow and add jobs to the economy.

Although we have been - and continue to be - staunch supporters of efforts to authorize a one to one hiring ratio, we recognize that there is not sufficient support for this in the General Assembly at this time. We therefore urge support for the bill, with the revised language, as a good first step to addressing inequities in the apprenticeship ratio law.

We also encourage you to continue efforts to explore how the hiring ratio can be further modified in the future to allow contractors to hire additional apprentices while maintaining the one-to-one job site ratio, which will help us reduce costs, be more competitive and provide job opportunities and learning experiences for Connecticut's young.

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Jennings at CHCC, 22 Skyview Terrace, Manchester, CT 06040 or [jjennings@chcca.net](mailto:jjennings@chcca.net), Tel., 860-533-1163.*