



**TESTIMONY
MARY JANE FAY
PRESIDENT
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **supports SB-946, An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Occupational Licensing Laws.**

We support the goal of this legislation, which requires the state Department of Consumer Protection to develop a plan to increase the enforcement of the state's occupational licensing provisions.

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. In addition to contractors who illegally work over our borders presenting an element of danger due to their lack of knowledge regarding Connecticut Codes, illegal contractors also take away from our workforce and much needed tax revenue as well. Proper occupational licensing enforcement would not only pay for itself but would also generate income for the state.

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 support efforts to utilize the expertise of the licensing boards in enforcing occupational licensing laws. PHCC would also support the use of active enforcement efforts, such as sting operations, which would go a long way toward deterring unlicensed contractors from performing work in this state. If such stings were conducted and publicized, it would clearly enhance the state's occupational licensing enforcement efforts.

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.