

GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING 2/24/11

SENATOR DOYLE, REPRESENTATIVE TABORSAK and MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS CAMERON CHAMPLIN and I REPRESENT PLUMBERS and PIPE FITTERS LOCAL UNION 777. I HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THAT LOCAL FOR 45 YEARS AND HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HEATING and COOLING PIPING BOARD SINCE 1986. I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT MATTER OF SB-946. WE ARE IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL AND FEEL THAT MORE ENFORCEMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING LAWS IS LONG OVERDUE.

SINCE MY APPOINTMENT THE MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD AND I KNOW THE OTHER OCCUPATIONAL BOARDS ALL AGREE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF INSPECTORS TO PROPERLY ENFORCE THESE VERY IMPORTANT STATUES. THIS LEADS TO POOR WORKMANSHIP AND AN INJUSTICE TO THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT WHO EXPECT TO HIRE A CONTRACTOR WITH LICENSED QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. THAT ALSO IS AN INJUSTICE TO THE GOOD LAW ABIDING CONTRACTORS WHO ARE IN COMPETITION WITH THESE UNSCRUPELOUS CONTRACTORS. DURING THE BIDDING PROCESS THEY ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN THE COMPETITION CAN USE VARIOUS METHODS TO CUT THEIR COSTS INCLUDING USING UNLISENCED PEOPLE.

ALTHOUGH THEIR IS ALWAYS A COST FACTOR ATTACHED TO ANY HIRING OF NEW PERSONNEL WE FEEL THAT THE AMOUNT OF REVENUE GENERATED BY FINES WOULD OFFSET THE COST OF MORE INSPECTORS. THAT IS WHY THIS BILL ONLY ASKS FOR A PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED BY DCP. WE BELIEVE WHEN ALL FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED IT WILL BE A BENEFIT TO THE STATE FINANCIALLY IF THERE ARE MORE INSPECTORS HIRED. REMEMBER THIS STATE WANTS TO BE BUSINESS FRIENDLY AND ATTRACT MORE FIRMS BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE GOOD CONTRACTORS TO DO BYSINESS HERE AND AT THE SAME TIME PROTECT OUR PRESENT CONTRACTORS FROM THE CHEATERS.

THAK YOU FOR THE OPPURTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY. IF ANY OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER I CAN BE REACHED AT camc@att.net OR CELL (860) 287-0020