

LABOR and PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Senator Prague Representative Zalaski and members of the committee, my name is Cameron Champlin and I represent Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777. I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB-480.

I have been a member of Local 777 for 45 years and have worked on construction projects which have included everything from residential housing to Nuclear Power Plants. I know how important safety is in every aspect of construction. This bill would not in any way reduce the knowledge of safety requirements that construction workers have to possess in order to perform their tasks in a safe and efficient manner. When anyone obtains a Federal OSHA 10 or OSHA 30 certification card they are not required to take any other upgrade courses ever. The State of Connecticut requires any employee on a State funded project to have completed at least an OSHA 10 course in the previous five years. This is certainly a good idea for everyone involved, however if someone has completed a minimum of an OSHA 10 course and then is required to take a refresher course of four hours along with the other requirements of continuing education in order to renew their license we believe that would be sufficient to retain the level of safety needed on these projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter. If any member of the committee wishes to discuss this matter further I would be happy to talk with them. I can be contacted at camc@att.net or cell (860) 287-0020.