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**TESTIMONY OF  
JOSEPH PELLECCIA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR COMMITTEE  
MARCH 1, 2011**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes SB-913, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees.**

Last month, statewide permits for new home construction fell to their lowest level in two years, a sign the housing market is weakening. Poor prospects for Connecticut job growth, rising tax burdens and rising gasoline prices caused by overseas instability are all contributing to increased uncertainty among people considering buying or building homes. People are also putting off remodeling and renovating their homes and businesses, causing further slowdown in both the residential and commercial construction industry.

Connecticut lawmakers should be looking for ways to jumpstart Connecticut's economy. Unfortunately, SB-913 moves Connecticut in the wrong direction by imposing a paid leave mandate on Connecticut employers.

We need to nurture the growth of small businesses and contractors by supporting policies that create a more competitive business climate. This bill is a slap in the face to any employer that has worked hard to grow a business and provide employees with good-paying job opportunities.

Employers in every other state in the country have the flexibility to develop sick leave policies that make sense for their company. The government should not be permitted to overregulate employers by dictating the number of days that should be provided for paid sick leave, how employees may accrue and use sick leave, and whether it may be taken in hourly increments.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to **reject SB-913.**

*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.*