

**PUBLIC SAFETY and SECURITY COMMITTEE
HEARING FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the committee my name is Cameron Champlin and I represent Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local Union 777. On February 7, 2010 the construction workers on the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown Connecticut reported to work as they normally did and fully expected to return home as usual. Tragically for some of them they never left that site alive. Six workers died due to the explosion and many others were injured. Three of the dead were my union brothers from Local Union 777. I had worked with two of the deceased and therefore knew them on a personal basis. One of them was going to retire upon completion of this project. He had been looking forward to spending more time with his family and more time enjoying one of his favorite hobbies, fishing. Sadly the other member left behind a family who will miss him immensely, especially a young son who enjoyed being with his dad in the great outdoors.

Because of this tragic accident the families of these two men and the families of the other four victims will have to endure the pain of not having their husband, father or brother to enjoy life with.

When this tragedy occurred there was no board or committee empowered to oversee safety standards for this procedure. The passage of this bill will ban the use of explosive gases to be used for the cleaning of pipes on these facilities. There are alternative non-explosive gasses which can do the same job. Also it will establish a committee which will ensure safety standards are adhered to on these projects.

For all of these reasons please move this Bill No. HB-5802 forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important matter.

This testimony is from Cameron Champlin lobbyist for Local 777 Plumbers and Pipe Fitters. If any of the committee members have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further I can be reached at camc@att.net or cell (860) 287-0020.