

# Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

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MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



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**TESTIMONY OF  
JENNIFER JENNINGS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 15, 2011**

2011

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The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments supporting HB-6296, An Act Adopting The National Electrical Code, The International Plumbing Code, The International Mechanical Code, And The International Fuel Gas Code:

Members of the heating and cooling industry support this legislation, which would require the state to adopt the most recent versions of the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code, for example, in a timely manner rather than skipping adoption for several years, as is currently the practice. Passage of this legislation is necessary and desired by all tradespersons in the industry to ensure consistent training, applicability and enforcement of the codes.

Unfortunately, the State of Connecticut continually lags behind other states in adopting the most recent versions of the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code. In fact, the Department of Public Safety has not yet adopted the 2006 version of these codes, while many states have adopted the 2009 codes which have been in effect for some time already.

Technological changes and advancements in heating and cooling equipment and in installation requirements can create public safety concerns if such changes and advancements are not reflected in current code. Having the most recent versions of the International Mechanical Code and the International Fuel Gas Code adopted and enforced helps protect consumers and employees alike. In addition to failing to incorporate changes that are intended to update safety practices for workers and consumers, this creates a disconnect between the code that is used in the field for enforcement purposes and the code that is used to train apprentices and test HVAC license applicants. Ensuring that the performance of heating and cooling work is held to highest and most recent standards helps maintain the highest possible level of safety, training and professionalism for our industry, and for consumers.

CHCC thanks the Public Safety Committee for its consideration of our comments and urges passage of HB-6296.