



TESTIMONY OF
MARY JANE FAY, PRESIDET-ELECT
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT (CT-PHCC)
SUPPORTING HB-6296,
AN ACT AN ACT ADOPTING THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, THE
INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE, THE INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE,
AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE.
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2011

The Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors of Connecticut (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. **As such, CT-PHCC strongly supports HB-6296, An Act Adopting the National Electrical Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, and the International Fuel Gas Code.**

CT-PHCC members feel that this legislation is needed to help protect Connecticut residents and the public and ensure consistency with training, testing, performance of work and enforcement. Requiring the state of Connecticut to adopt the International Plumbing Code (IPC), the International Mechanical Code (IMC), and the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) in a timelier manner than is currently required by law or has even been current practice is beneficial to all tradespersons who perform work on residential and commercial properties. Work based on obsolete code provisions could result in unsafe conditions and possibly building occupants, their guests and their property.

The IPC, for example, is designed to protect public health and safety through provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs or restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction, and without giving preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products, or methods of construction. The IPC is designed to work harmoniously with the International Building Code and others within the family of International Codes. The International Code Council updates these codes on a three-year cycle. Adopting revised codes on a frequent timeline provides for periodic incremental changes compared to more major changes on a less periodic basis.

Founded in 1890, the Connecticut Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors is the not-for-profit trade association that represents union and non-union plumbing, heating and cooling contractors throughout the state.

"Incompatible and conflicting codes" is the most frequent complaint voiced by those who must interpret, apply, and enforce the codes. Entities responsible for complying with those codes deserve a fair opportunity to understand the requirements without protracted appeals, hearings and multiple interpretations from different agencies in the same jurisdiction. Apprentices and others who are learning a trade and who must ultimately pass a state licensing exam must have consistency among the codes they are trained on, tested on, and perform work in the field.

By failing to adopt the most recent versions of the IPC, IMC, and the IFGC, Connecticut has neglected to incorporate many important provisions. For example, significant code changes in the 2009 code that are not present in the currently adopted 2003 code include energy conservation improvements such as programmable thermostats in new homes and buildings with forced air furnaces, or leakage tests for duct systems outside the building thermal envelope (in attics and crawl spaces, garages, and below slab).

For your reference, we have provided a chart which outlines the various code adoptions by all 50 states as well as some local jurisdictions. As clearly indicated by the chart, nearly every other state has a more recent version of the IPC, IMC and IFGC effective statewide, with many states having the 2009 version effective statewide.

Finally, CT-PHCC would also support a revision to the composition of the Code & Standards Review Committee to include a licensed tradesperson representative of the plumbing, heating & cooling industry and urge your support of such.

We therefore ask the committee to support HB-6296. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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