

Testimony of Frank J. DaCato  
In Support of  
Raised Bill No. 5802

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, first I would like to thank you for taking the time to hear me today. My Name is Frank DaCato and I am the training coordinator for Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777. I am here today to ask you to support bill 5802, "An Act Adopting Certain Safety Recommendations of the Thomas Commission".

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at approximately 11:20 A.M., I was at home relaxing when I received a phone call to turn on the television. To my horror I started watching the reports of the explosion at the Kleen Energy Plant. By noon I had found out the names of three of my brother union members who were dead. I worked for and with Ray Dobratz on different projects, Pete Chepulis was a 5<sup>th</sup> year apprentice in my code class when I first met him and Ron Crabb was in my 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentice class when I first met him. These men were more than just acquaintances to me, they were friends. Their loss is not just a family loss, or a union loss, or a friend loss. Their loss is a community loss. We are all a little less without them.

I have since found out that this was not first time that lives have been lost from this type of accident. Just

eight months before, four men died in an accident at the ConAgra Slim Jim plant in Garner, N.C. The Chemical Safety Board also investigated that accident. Tragically their report came out just two days before the accident in Middletown. Not enough time to save Ray, Pete and Ron but with the adoption of this law maybe time to save many other lives.

Once again thank you for your time and please adopt bill #5802 and show the rest of the country that CT is a leader when it comes to workers safety.

Frank DaCato