



**TESTIMONY OF
MARY JANE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 2012**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **supports HB-5351, An Act Concerning the Vocational-Technical Schools.**

In order to create a steady supply of skilled tradespersons to meet the demand for workers in the construction trades, we need to do more to encourage and support the state's Technical High Schools.

The demand for workers in the construction trades will actually exceed the national average into the year 2013 due to the aging workforce and other factors. In fact, according to the state Department of Labor's Occupational Employment Projections, there will be double digit increases in the demand for workers in the construction trades over the next five years – jobs that provide excellent wages and benefits and benefit our overall economy.

We therefore urge you to **support HB-5351** which will create a board dedicated to overseeing the Technical High Schools. This will shine a much-needed spotlight on issues such as funding, equipment and employer involvement that are critical to developing a successful Technical High School system.

CT-PHCC does recommend, however, that the board include representatives from the skilled trades who have knowledge and experience that will be beneficial to the board in developing and supporting policies to enhance the role of the Technical High Schools in meeting Connecticut's workforce needs.

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.