



**TESTIMONY OF  
MARY JANE FAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 27, 2012**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes SB-181, AN ACT REQUIRING THE STANDARD AND PREVAILING WAGE BE PAID TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF EMPLOYERS WHO RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ENTITIES.**

SB-181 leaves many of Connecticut's plumbing, heating, and cooling contractors "out in the cold" by requiring private contractors to adopt prevailing wages if they receive financial assistance from the state.

The prevailing wage is an hourly wage paid to workers that includes fringe benefits, such as health insurance and pension contributions. If an employer does not provide fringe benefits, the amount of the benefit must go to the worker as additional pay. This makes a worker's hourly benefit rate often close to or more than 50% of the required hourly wage.

Connecticut's small and midsize contractors simply cannot bear the administrative and financial burdens that prevailing wages place on them. By extending the prevailing wage mandate to private construction projects, SB-181 will make small and midsize contractors less competitive for state and federally funded construction projects and will force contractors to cut crucial jobs.

The recent Connecticut jobs bill set the groundwork for a solid economic recovery. Unfortunately, SB-181 undermines our state's progress.

We urge the committee to **reject SB-181.**

*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.*